

Inflation rate down to 13% a month ahead of target

Single-figure inflation is in sight, with the Government reaching its inflation target for this year a month early and a further fall expected in January. Mr Charles Williams, Price Commission chairman, said yesterday that less frequent increases were likely in future, some as much as 12 months apart. (Business News, page 17)

Earnings outlook still the uncertain factor

By David Blake
The Government has met its target for bringing down inflation this year a month ahead of schedule, and is well on track for single-figure inflation by the spring. The retail price index rose by only half a point in November to stand at 187.4, 13 per cent above its level of November last year, according to figures released by the Department of Employment yesterday.

November saw the fifth consecutive drop in the annual inflation rate from its high point of 17.7 per cent in May. In October the annual rate was 14.1 per cent.

A further decline is expected in December, which should confirm that the Government has succeeded in reducing the annual rate to 13 per cent by the last quarter—its stated goal.

The fall in the underlying rate of inflation in recent months has been even more dramatic, going from a high point of 20 per cent in May to 8.7 per cent in November. This is measured by examining changes in prices of all items except seasonal foods over the past six months and then converting the figures to an annualized rate.

November is the second month in which inflation, as gauged by this test, has been within single figures.

Mr Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, pointed out that the annual figures failed to record the success which the Government has had in slowing price increases because they are influenced by big increases early in the year caused by the pound's fall in 1976.

Mr Booth, Secretary of State for Employment, used the occasion to give credit for the success of the Government's policy and to call for perseverance with it. He was clearly asking his union members to accept any increases within the guidelines.

Mr John Methven, director-

Bakers' ban threatens Christmas bread

By Christopher Thomas
Labour Reporter

An overtime ban by bakery workers in England and Wales will begin tomorrow, unless weekend peace efforts produce a settlement. The producers say it will cut supplies by a quarter.

The action results from a national ballot by the Bakers, Food and Allied Workers' Union among its 57,000 members over a pay offer that would, according to the employers, increase average earnings by slightly more than a tenth. The union said the offer was rejected by two to one.

The Federation of Bakers, whose members include the three main producers, Rank Hovis McDougall, Spillers French, and Allied Bakeries, said that next week overtime would have to be used to cope with the Christmas demand.

The federation's members own 230 bakeries, producing more than seven tenths of all bread. Smaller, private bakeries, where the union has no members, will escape the ban.

The employers say the industry is in a serious financial state and is still recovering from the last bakery workers' strike, less than three months ago. The producers make 0.012p profit on each standard loaf.

The Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service apparently made repeated telephone calls to the union's headquarters in Hatfield, Hertfordshire, while the 18-member national executive was meeting yesterday, but failed to get a reply. It has offered to meet either party to the dispute this weekend.

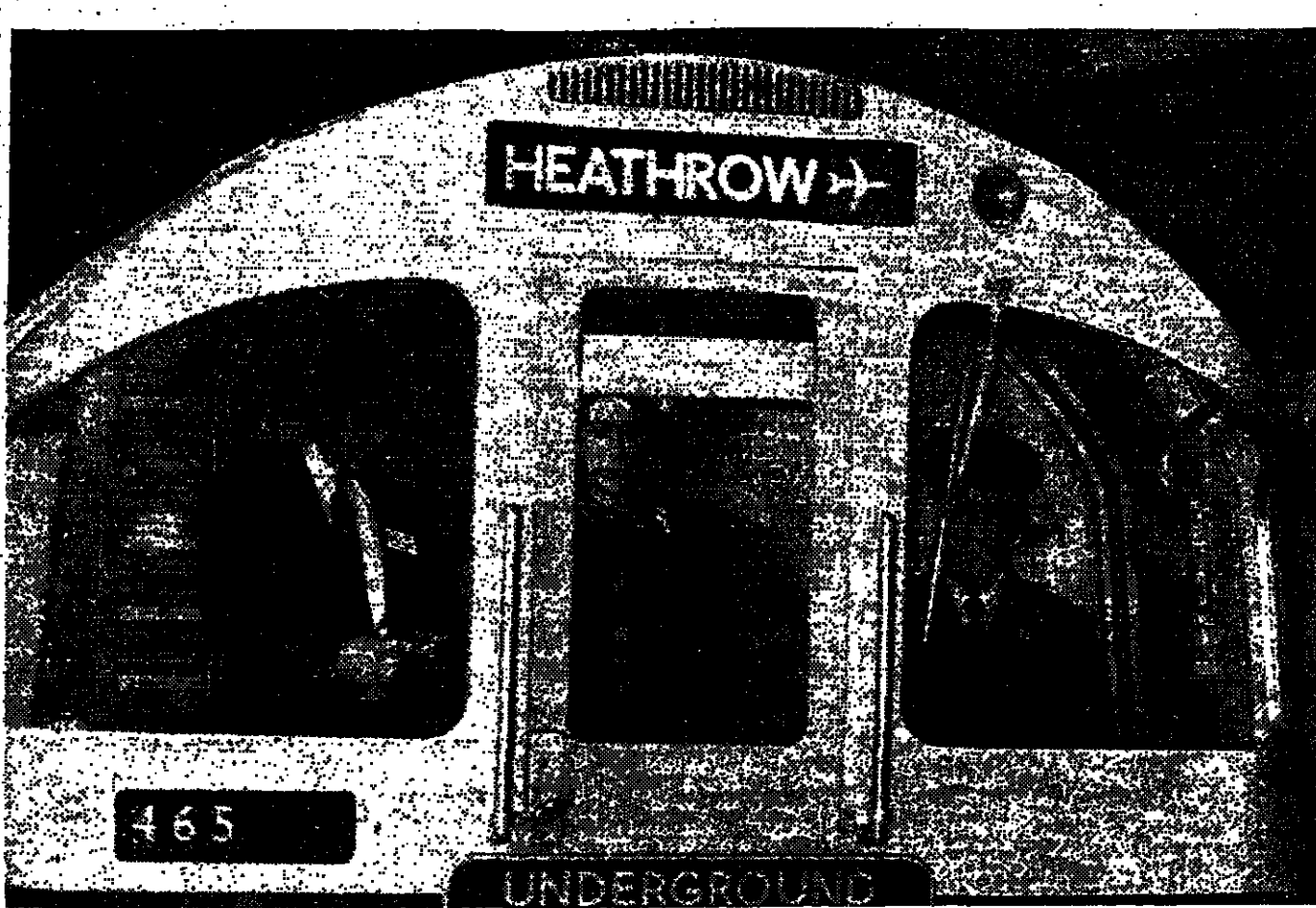
The workers' ballot produced a big majority in favour of an overtime ban rather than a strike. Most bakery workers do overtime to bridge a gap between shifts.

The union seeks consolidation of increases received under phases one and two of the pay policy (£8.50 in most cases) so that they would count for overtime and bonus payments, a 10 per cent rise and an extra three days' holiday. It says that the employers' offer is worth 6 per cent on basic rates.

The union's members produce four fifths of all bread in England and Wales. If the ban is imposed, Christmas supplies will be insufficient, the employers say, and the union is not following agreed bargaining procedure.

Mr David Duke-Evans, director of the Federation of Bakers, said the action might force producers to ration bread and close bakeries. Profit margins, where they existed, were low.

The employers say that their offer gives increases of from 6 per cent to more than 15 per cent on weekly earnings, and that to grant the union's claim would breach government guidelines.



The Queen goes by Tube: The new £30m Tube extension to Heathrow may be a gleaming technological miracle, but yesterday at least it did not seem the best all-round buy for some trunk-laden, travel-weary passengers (David Nicholson-Lord writes).

The Queen officially opened the extension and inspected, among other marvels, a computerized, trilingual journey planner, which features a coloured video display to help travellers to reach their destination.

Accompanied by Mr Rodgers, Secretary of State for Transport, and representatives of the GLC, she travelled the mile-and-a-half of new track between Hatton Cross and Heathrow Central stations in the motorman's cab (above).

She recalled the first occasion she had

travelled by Tube, in 1939, and contrasted it with her opening of the Victoria Line eight years ago. The ticket clerk saw nothing wrong with my experience in those days, unlike the automatic ticket machine at Victoria, which seemed very reluctant to take the responsibility of issuing me with a ticket," she said.

Because of a lift engineers' dispute, which ended on Monday, only two of the six escalators were working in time for the opening, despite concentrated efforts by London Transport staff. Some two-and-a-half hours after the inauguration, the first public train left Wood Green station in north London at two o'clock. By mid-afternoon curiosity seekers were thronging the shining halls and moving walkways of the new station and seller of commemorative

stationery, at 50p an item, were doing a roaring trade.

The extension makes Heathrow the first large international airport directly linked into the Underground system of a great capital city. At 80p for a single journey between central London and the airport, which takes 47 minutes, the result has been proclaimed a great benefit in cost, time and transport.

But journeys to and from Heathrow by other methods of transport yesterday showed a slightly different picture. If, for example, more personal factors such as comfort, round-the-clock availability, and even scenic value, a point of importance for tourists if not businessmen, are taken into account, the new Tube line performs relatively poorly.

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Cyprus kidnappers extend deadline

Nicosia, Dec 16—The Cyprus authorities have made contact with the kidnappers of the 21-year-old son of President Kyprianou and are trying to obtain his release, a senior Government official announced here today.

He said the intermediary was a former EOKA-B leader, but all he had been able to achieve so far was to get the kidnappers to extend by 48 hours the deadline for killing Second-Lieutenant Achilles Kyprianou if all political prisoners are not unseated.

The deadline is now 8 pm (GMT) tomorrow.

Tonight, Mr George Tom-baides, the Communications Minister, said: "We know who the kidnappers are, and they know that we know them." He did not elaborate.

Mr Glafkos Clerides, leader of the Democratic Rally Party, said today he was withdrawing from the February presidential election because of the kid-

Mr Carter and Mr Begin may join President Sadat in Cairo summit

From Patrick Brogan
Washington, Dec 16
President Carter and Mr Begin had a two-hour meeting in the White House this morning. Various sources strongly suggest that the Israeli Prime Minister has proposed that there should be a summit meeting between himself, President Sadat and Mr Carter shortly after Christmas to open substantive negotiations.

Mr Sadat has hinted, on American television, that the idea has already been put to him, and it is suggested that he will agree to it. The summit plan, however, is far from certain. It is suggested that this morning seemed to him a basis for negotiations.

Reports from Cairo tonight said Mr Carter had conferred with President Sadat by telephone after seeing Mr Begin.

Mr Carter is passing through the Middle East on his way to and from India at the new year and it would be entirely possible for him to go to Cairo for a summit. That might be a suitable moment for bringing King Hussein of Jordan into the process.

Mr Begin is staying at Blair House, the guest house at the White House. He walked across the road to the White House at 8 am.

The first hour's discussions were 10-15 minutes. The two men were then joined by officials for a second hour. One of them



Face to face: Mr Begin and President Carter.

Three held in Holden murder case

Cairo, Dec 16—Three young Arabs, a girl and two men, have been arrested in connection with the murder of Mr David Holden, Chief Foreign Correspondent of *The Sunday Times*, according to the newspaper *Al-Ahram*.

Police sources said political motives for the murder of Mr Holden, who was 53, had not been ruled out.

The names or nationalities of the three have not been given. *Al-Ahram* said they were arrested in a flat at Manshiya, a Cairo district, at midnight last night.

Mr Holden arrived here by air from Amman on the evening of December 6 and his body was found the next morning on the fringes of the desert at Nasr City, a Cairo suburb. He had been shot at the back with a bullet which pierced the heart.

Al-Ahram said Mr Holden's suitcase, his portable typewriter and his notebook had been found by a police patrol in a side street in Dokki, near here. His passport was still missing. The car was towed to Dokki police station and experts were called to take fingerprints and samples of bloodstains from it.

The police are looking for another car in connection with the incident. *Al-Ahram* said. State security police had scrutinized Mr Holden's papers and arrested a number of suspects. The newspaper did not say how many or whether they included the three Arabs.

Mr Holden's body, identified last Saturday, was flown to Britain yesterday.

Commenting on the *Al-Ahram* report, an interior Ministry official told reporters the three people taken into custody could not be described as suspects in the murder of Mr Holden. He said the two men and the girl were merely helping inquiries.

The official said one of the two men owned the car in which Mr Holden's belongings were found. The owner had reported the car had been stolen before Mr Holden arrived in Cairo.

The official said that until the killer or killers were found, all activities would be considered political, robbery or otherwise. He declined to give details of the three people held by the police. —Reuters.

84 men saved from ocean inferno as two tankers crash

A helicopter and rescue ships saved 84 crewmen when the 330,000-ton supertankers collided and caught fire 20 miles off the South African coast near Port Elizabeth. Both ships, still burning, remained afloat, drifting east three miles apart. Anti-pollution vessels headed for the area after reports of a growing oil slick, which threatens holiday resort beaches. With both ships valued at £15m, it could prove the costliest maritime disaster so far.

New York aid plea

New York banks have asked Congress to support an extension of the federal Government's loan programme for the city, which is due to end next summer. Their chairman told the Senate banking committee that New York will need aid for several years if it is to overcome its financial difficulties.

Mortgages 'blocked'

Council planning rigidity often prevented mortgages being advanced to would-be home owners, Mr Shore, Secretary of State for the Environment, said at a London conference. If a council scheduled an area for redevelopment at some unspecified time that "blocked use of building society funds."

Mr van Agt's uphill task

Mr van Agt's new Dutch Government, a coalition of most of his Christian Democrats with the Liberals, is assured of only 69 votes in the 150-seat Parliament. Since the coalition programme is vaguely defined, it will be up to ministers to offer broadly acceptable measures.

Case disturbs judge

After jailing a farmworker at Bodmin Crown Court, for life for the murder of his backward son, Mr Justice Willis said he was gravely disturbed by what he had heard about a lack of supervision for the boy, and called for a Government inquiry.

Blow for guerrillas in Mozambique

Much of the leadership of the guerrilla force belonging to Mr Robert Mugabe's wing of the Patriotic Front was eliminated in Rhodesia's big raid into Mozambique last month. Rhodesia's General Peter Walls, the Rhodesian commander of combined operations, said. He made it plain that the Rhodesian forces would carry out further raids if necessary but emphasized that Rhodesia had no quarrel with the local Mozambican population.

Nurse visited in jail

Foreign reporters were allowed to visit the woman's prison in Bangkok where Miss Rita Nightingale, a British nurse, is serving her 20-year jail sentence for attempted drug smuggling. The reporters found the prison congenial. Miss Nightingale was crying when she spoke to them about her appeal.

Sponsorship warning

A report gives a warning that if £7m in sports sponsorship was suddenly removed, that could seriously affect many sports, especially the more expensive ones. It also says that as more companies study what they get for their money the arts could benefit.

Minister's future in doubt

Herzog Leber, the West German Defence Minister, faces an increasingly uncertain political future after a second blow followed Monday's espionage scandal. Criticism by the Constitutional Court over the number of conscientious objectors appeared to erode his position.

Handicapped boy wins: A mentally handicapped boy of 12 won the right to receive mobility allowance after a 15-month campaign by his parents.

Firemen's benefits: The Department of Health and Social Security stood by a circular detailing restrictions on benefits for families of striking firemen.

£89 New York return: A travel agency is offering return air fares to New York for £89 starting next year.

Paris: President Giscard entered the French election campaign with a speech in the Norman countryside appealing for farmers' support.

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Cooperman by any other name

From Michael Lepperson
New York, Dec 16

A judge in the New York state Supreme Court has, after three years of litigation, allowed the former Mrs Ellen Cooperman to call herself Ellen Cooperman. His ruling reversed that of a lower court last year when a judge called the proposed new name insane and nonsensical.

In 1974 Mrs Cooperman (as she then was) a film producer, divorced Mr Norman Cooperman and decided to alter her surname on the grounds that the old one was sexist. She began legal moves, normally a formality, only to have the petition rejected last year.

In granting her new petition yesterday, Justice Leon Lazer said that she had a right in law to adopt a name of her own choosing, so long as it would not lead to fraud, evasion or to misleading others. There was no reason to think it would do any of those things.

Mrs Cooperman said that last year's rejection of her petition provoked much sympathy from people who would not normally be regarded as keen supporters of women's liberation. Her 10-year-old son Brian would keep the name Cooperman, she added, because he was male and thus not uncomfortable with it.

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Mrs Bhutto hurt in Test riot

From Our Own Correspondent
Lahore, Dec 16

Mrs Nusrat Bhutto, wife of Mr Bhutto, the former Prime Minister of Pakistan and chairman of the People's Party, was detained in hospital here with a head wound inflicted by a policeman's stick when violence flared at the first Test match between England and Pakistan.

Three stitches were inserted in the wound. Mrs Bhutto was at the centre of the disturbance, which caused play to be suspended for an hour. Police used tear gas to break up fighting between political opponents.

England at the time had scored 85 for two wickets in reply to Pakistan's 407 for nine declared. The trouble raised doubts as to whether the tour could continue.

John Woodcock, page 15

Third 'arson' attack on Eton college within a month

From Our Correspondent
Windsor

Police were searching last night for someone who is believed to have caused more than £140,000 worth of fire damage at Eton College.

In the latest attack yesterday, the third within a month, classrooms and an office were burnt out causing more than £40,000 worth of damage. The fire rafter avoided special fire security patrols.

"I am convinced this is arson," Mr Michael McCrum, the Head Master, said. "Over the past two years we have found signs of a number of attempts to start fires at the school. Previously we have

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On November 4 last a £100,000 blaze destroyed historic Warre House. The house was closed at the time for renovation work.

A week ago a blaze in a ventilation shaft caused minor damage at Waltham House. Mr McCrum said: "I cannot think why anyone should want to start fire at the school." He discounted the possibility of boys at the school being responsible, pointing out that they went home for their Christmas holidays earlier this week.

Thames Valley police said the latest blaze and the fire at Warre House were being treated as arson.

HOME NEWS

Rigid council planning policy blocks home loans, Mr Shore says

By John Young
Planning Reporter

Mr Shore, Secretary of State for the Environment, yesterday criticised local authorities for inflexible planning policies which often prevented building societies from offering mortgages to would-be home owners.

"If a local authority has scheduled an area for redevelopment at some unspecified date in the distant future, it has effectively blocked use of building societies funds," he told a London conference on the housing policy review, organised by the Building Societies Association.

"If it will not come forward with clear plans for the environmental improvement of a declining neighbourhood, it will not be able to obtain a loan."

"If it will not give an applicant for a building society mortgage an assurance of an improvement grant, and if it insists on its right to reclaim the land if the house is sold within five years, it will make it more difficult for a society to grant a mortgage."

He said that the building societies had agreed to make £300m available in 1978-79 for mortgage advances to be made by local authorities, but added that day-to-day running of the so-called support lending scheme was still far from satisfactory. In some areas, it does not seem to be going at all.

Some building society representatives genuinely believed that the demand was not there,

or that local authorities were not doing all they could to help. Some local authorities believed that the use of funds was inhibited by building society attitudes.

Mr Shore pointed out that £300m would probably represent only about four per cent of total lending in 1978. But councils had complained of excessive caution and of a reluctance to lend on certain types of property.

A share of next year's funds would be allocated to any authority that requested it, instead of being confined to this year to 200 named authorities, Mr Shore announced.

He also spoke about alleged discrimination by building societies against certain inner city neighbourhoods. It had earlier been the subject of a demonstration by Shelter representatives, who gave delegates leaflets calling for an end to "red lining".

Mr Shore suggested that what was described as red lining coincided with a reluctance by some societies to lend on older property. The aggregate of individual decisions by societies and their valuers could lead to what appeared to be discrimination against certain areas.

Closed shop opposed

In a poll of the 4,000 members of the National Association of Probation Officers 500 voted in favour of a closed shop and 1,368 against.

Curb stands on aid to families of firemen

By Donald Macintyre
Labour Reporter

The Department of Health and Social Security yesterday stood by a circular laying down restrictions on the payment of supplementary benefit to the families of striking firemen.

Mr Arthur Latham, Labour MP for City of Westminster, Paddington, had earlier called for withdrawal of the circular, believed to have been issued by the department's north London regional office.

He said the document, which makes it clear that housing allowances should not be allowed in the assessment of dependants' requirements, appeared to discriminate against firemen and their families.

The circular also indicates that payments to cover standing order commitments that firemen have failed to modify from the beginning of the strike should be made only in "very exceptional" circumstances, and then at the rate of 50p a day for each dependant.

Normally, the circular says, the claimant should be referred in such cases to the union's hardship fund or advised to seek a bank overdraft.

An official at the department maintained yesterday that there was nothing in the circular that was outside normal guidelines. He denied that it arose from any special ministerial instruction.

Firemen's leaders are to meet Mr Orme, Minister for Social Security, on Tuesday to discuss the policy on payment of benefits.

Mr Terence Parry, general secretary of the Fire Brigades Union, yesterday continued talks with Mr Brian Ruxbridge, secretary of the employers' side of the National Joint Council for the Fire Service. The union is to meet the employers formally on Monday.

White, former sales director of Searoys, admitted six counts of offering corrupt gifts.

After a 31-day trial the jury returned guilty verdicts against Robert Alfred Price, aged 65, of Croesonen Park, Aberystwyth; Leslie Ernest Mills, aged 57, of King Charles Road, Newbridge; and Bert Jenner, aged 61, of Moor View, Willowton, Ebbw Vale.

Mr Price was sent to prison for two years. He was found guilty of corruptly accepting £50 from Searoys.

Mr Mills was sent to prison for 12 months. He was found guilty of corruptly accepting £1,000 from Searoys.

Mr Jenner was found guilty of corruptly accepting £1,000 from Searoys. He was sentenced to 18 months.

Mr Brown, of Rye Road, Newport, admitted six charges of corruptly accepting gifts from Searoys. He and Eric White, aged 68, of Caerphilly Road, Bassaleg, Newport, were both jailed for 18 months. Mr

Romanish influences 'pose severe threat to Protestant heritage'

Paisley party condemns 'The Sound of Music'

From Christopher Walker
Belfast

Taking a break from a vigorous campaign against reform of Ulster's homosexuality laws, followers of the Rev Ian Paisley have turned their collective wrath against the moral dangers inherent in the musical, *The Sound of Music*.

The apparently innocuous story of a novice nun who becomes governess to an Austrian family was selected as this year's Christmas play at the predominantly Protestant high school in Kilkeel, a picturesque town on Down fishing port.

Millions of admirers of Miss Julie Andrews may not have regarded the choice as over-controversial. But according to the influential local branch of Mr Paisley's Democratic Unionists, the third largest political party in Northern Ireland, it posed a severe threat to the Protestant heritage.

As a result of what the party describes as the "disgusted reaction" of many local Protestants, the party has

tant parents, the party has issued a formal statement of protest and demanded an urgent meeting with the school's management committee.

Although the move may seem ludicrous to those unfamiliar with the religious prejudice that marks much of Ulster life, the protest and the seriousness with which it has been presented go far to explain the province's continuing and apparently insoluble difficulties.

Without the slightest hint of tongue-in-cheek, the statement declared: "We wish to protest in the strongest possible manner about the musical, *The Sound of Music* in Kilkeel High School. We see this as yet another inroad of the great ecumenical deception."

Last night Mr George McConnell, the party's local publicity officer, said: "The *Sound of Music* is full of Romanish influences which Protestants abhor. At one point

candles are lit on the stage, some of the children have to appear in the garb of Catholics and they also have to bless themselves publicly in the way that the Romans do."

Mr McConnell, a local drilling contractor, was quite unrepentant about a protest which would be inconceivable outside the six counties of Northern Ireland. Local Protestant anger, he explained, had grown because of previous incidents at the school.

He said one involved the use of the New English Bible and resulted in a petition of protest from local parents. Another surrounded the teaching of a version of the Battle of the Boyne (1690) in which King William III was shown as a tyrant.

Such as many British politicians have discovered to their cost, are the kind of issues that still really count in many parts of Northern Ireland.

Neave complaint: Mr Airey Neave, Opposition spokesman

on Northern Ireland yesterday protested to the BBC about the Tonight programme on television on Thursday, which included interviews with IRA leaders (our Political Reporter writes).

In a letter to Mr Ian Trethowan, director general of the BBC, Mr Neave said that it was time the House of Commons had an opportunity to study the film on an all-party basis, so that MPs could form a judgement on BBC policy in Ulster.

"The extraordinary statement by the producer, Mr Sean Hardie, that it was essentially an 'explanatory piece' demonstrates an air of total irresponsibility for the consequences to the people of Northern Ireland," Mr Neave wrote.

He added: "The terrorists are using your corporation for their own propaganda. It is a matter of great regret to me personally that you should have reached a decision which will inevitably give new encouragement to terrorism."

New appeal procedure in Scottish cases urged

From Ronald Faux
Edinburgh

Changes in the procedure in Scotland for appeals against conviction and sentence are recommended in a report by the Thomson committee published yesterday.

The committee, under the chairmanship of Lord Thomson, the High Court judge, proposed a two-stage procedure designed to give convicted criminals a better opportunity to prepare their cases.

At present the appellant had to state his grounds at an early stage when it was uncertain whether legal aid would be available. That had led to appeals being drafted invariably without professional assistance.

The committee proposed that after giving notice of appeal the appellant would receive a transcript of the judge's charge to the jury. He would then prepare the detailed grounds.

These would be handed to the trial judge before he prepared his report on the case to the Court of Appeal. The documents would be available to the Crown and also to the Supreme Court Committee to help them to decide on legal aid.

On stated case procedure, the committee recommended that where adjustments were proposed by either party to the stated case prepared by a sheriff or district court judge, a compulsory hearing should be held. If he rejected any adjustment, the judge who prepared the stated case would have to give his reasons.

The committee also proposed that any person sent by the courts to a hospital or institution for treatment should be entitled to appeal.

Handicapped boy wins right to allowance

By Craig Seton

A mentally handicapped boy aged 12 yesterday won his right to receive mobility allowance when the National Insurance Commissioner rejected a test case appeal against his claim by the Department of Health and Social Security.

The decision marked the end of a 15-month campaign by Mr and Mrs Ernest Edmunds of Worcester, to prove that their son Robert, who suffers from Down's syndrome and will walk only a few yards, was entitled to the allowance.

The weekly allowance of £7, which is due to increase to £10 next year, will now be backdated to include the 15 months

since the Edmunds' first application. The department appealed against the original award to the boy on the basis that he could walk but refused to do so because of his low mental age.

Mr and Mrs Edmunds were supported in their campaign by Mr Peter Walker, Conservative MP for Worcester. He was concerned that many similarly handicapped children might be denied the mobility allowance.

The rules for entitlement state that an applicant should be unable or virtually unable to walk through physical disability. Mr Morris, the minister with responsibility for the Disabled, said in the Commons last week that he hoped the appeal would succeed.

More writs threatened against Labour groups

By Our Political Reporter

Two Oxford graduates who have become a thorn in the flesh of the Labour Party yesterday announced that they may increase their litigation by suing writs for alleged breaches of rules in six more Labour constituency parties.

Their threat has disturbed the national executive committee. It has decided to inquire into their activities, which have already cost the party £20,000. The graduates, Mr Paul McCormick and Mr Julian Lewis, started their campaign in Newham, North East, the seat of Mr Reg Prentice.

Mr Norman Atkinson, MP for Haringey, Tottenham, and

Treasurer of the Labour Party, stated last night: "Democracy is being threatened. The courts are being used as political committee rooms. The judiciary will be looked upon as so much political puppet and our legal system brought into disrepute if this business continues."

His statement also disclosed that the party has not yet found a way of dealing with Mr Lewis and Mr McCormick.

He said: "Faced with this situation, we can either ignore the law, or we can turn up in court and let the matter take its natural course, or we can consult the best legal opinion in the country to see what initiatives can be taken, and this we are now doing."

Former steelworks men jailed for corruption

Our Correspondent

Three former engineers at the Wyke steelworks and a former sales director of a Newport engineering company were sent to prison at the end of a corruption case at Newport Crown Court, Gwent, yesterday.

Judge Watkin Powell said it was "a classic case of industrial espionage".

Mr Kay Lewis, QC, for the prosecution, alleged that Gordon Brown, aged 53, former chief technical engineer at the steelworks, had provided A. J. Ward Ltd with confidential information from inside the steelworks which enabled Sewards to undercut competitors.

Mr Brown, of Rye Road, Newport, admitted six charges of corruptly accepting gifts from Searoys. He and Eric White, aged 68, of Caerphilly Road, Bassaleg, Newport, were both jailed for 18 months. Mr

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Museum contamination after radiation tests

Irradiation of dust from pieces of pottery at the National Museum of Antiquities, Edinburgh, to establish the age of pottery has led to medical examination of the staff and the suspension of the museum's research laboratory.

The samples were sent to various reactors in the United Kingdom for irradiation and then returned to the museum. The contamination was discovered about 11 days ago.

Mr Robert Stevenson, director of the museum, confirmed yesterday that Dr Hugh McKerrill, director of its research laboratory, had been suspended from duty. Mr Stevenson said that the irradiated dust "seems to have mildly contaminated carpets and things, but I understand the contamination is pretty low, a multiple of a luminous watch, or something of that kind. But it is a matter that we could not deal with."

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The trouble starts with speed, however. A taxi clocked up 36 minutes to Piccadilly yesterday despite the pre-Christmas rush hours, and the Railair link took 39 minutes. Lagging behind was the airport bus, caught up in an Ears Court traffic jam and registering 52 minutes.

On an admittedly personal judgment, the Tube link also ranked the lowest of the four in comfort, with inadequate space for luggage and a good chance of being obliged to stand for much of the journey. It was also hindered by an atmospheric introduction to London.

On round-the-clock availability, the Heathrow extension picked up a little, outperforming Railair but falling behind the Heathrow Express, which provides for awkward flights in the early hours.

A final points tally on subjective, but straightforward, ranking system shows airport buses and taxis sharing the lead with 15 points, followed by Railair with 14 points and the Underground amassing only 10 points.

Quicker by taxi through the Christmas rush

Continued from page 1

It is certainly among the best buys for price. The 88p from Piccadilly Circus compares with £1 each for the British Rail coach link from Heathrow to Heathrow, Victoria airport bus, and £5.65 for a taxi from the airport to Piccadilly Circus.

The trouble starts with speed, however. A taxi clocked up 36 minutes to Piccadilly yesterday despite the pre-Christmas rush hours, and the Railair link took 39 minutes. Lagging behind was the airport bus, caught up in an Ears Court traffic jam and registering 52 minutes.

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Sentences cut in Chinese heroin case

A former public schoolgirl and her lover, each jailed for 12 years by a judge at the Criminal Appeal Court for trafficking in Chinese heroin, had their sentences cut to 12 years by the Court of Appeal yesterday.

Lord Justice Waller, sitting with Mr Justice Tabor and Mr Justice May, said: "Sing Sing" ("May") Wong, aged 31, a Malaysian waitress, and her lover, Li Jafar Mah, aged 25, a former public schoolboy, were both sentenced to 12 years.

Mr Wong, of Queensgate, Epsom, Surrey, was sentenced to 12 years for the conspiracy, supplying heroin and possession of the drug with intent to supply, had his sentence cut to six years.

Choi Chi Sang, aged 35, of Bessie Park Road, Shepherd's Bush, Benito Ritchie, aged 39, of Fentiman Road, South Lambeth, and Pak Hoi, aged 27, of Watlington Road, Watlington, all London, each had their sentences cut to six years.

Voan Hin Lin, aged 25, a student, of Millman Road, Kilburn, London, jailed for four years for possession of the drug with intent to supply, was refused leave to appeal against his sentence.

Chun Kong Wong, aged 25, a student, of Trestle Road, Chiswick, London, jailed for five years for the same offence, had his sentence cut to four years.

Richard Tse, aged 27, a waiter, of Lansdown Road, Bournemouth, jailed for three years for possessing heroin, had his sentence cut to two years.

The couple's "Chief of Staff", Molly Yew, aged 34, of Montpelier Grove, Camden, Town, had her 10-year sentence for conspiracy cut to eight years.

Richard Blanchard, aged 24, born in Australia, of Broadway, Yaxley, Peterborough, jailed for five years for possession of the drug with intent to supply, and breach of a suspended sentence order, had his sentence cut to three and a half years.

Agnes Lam, aged 40, of Queensgate, Epsom, Surrey, jailed for nine years for the conspiracy, supplying heroin and possession of the drug with intent to supply, had his sentence cut to six years.

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Marxism in universities motion rejected

From Judith Judd, of The Times Higher Education Supplement
Edinburgh

University teachers last night rejected a motion endorsing a controversial report on Marxist infiltration of higher education.

The Association of University Teachers' council, meeting at Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh, rejected a resolution that deplored a report by Professor Julius Gould of Nottingham University, for naming many academic radicals and for implying that Marxist viewpoints in higher education were not legitimate.

Instead, the council accepted an amendment affirming the rights of teachers of different intellectual and political persuasions to teach in universities and saying that appointments should be made on academic criteria.

Professor Gould said that if the council accepted the resolution, which had the backing of the association's executive, it would be claiming the right to pass judgement on the content and style of its members' writings.

Professor Eikehard Kopp, of Hull University, said that report gave the impression that it was illegitimate for individuals of radical or Marxist views to hold university posts.

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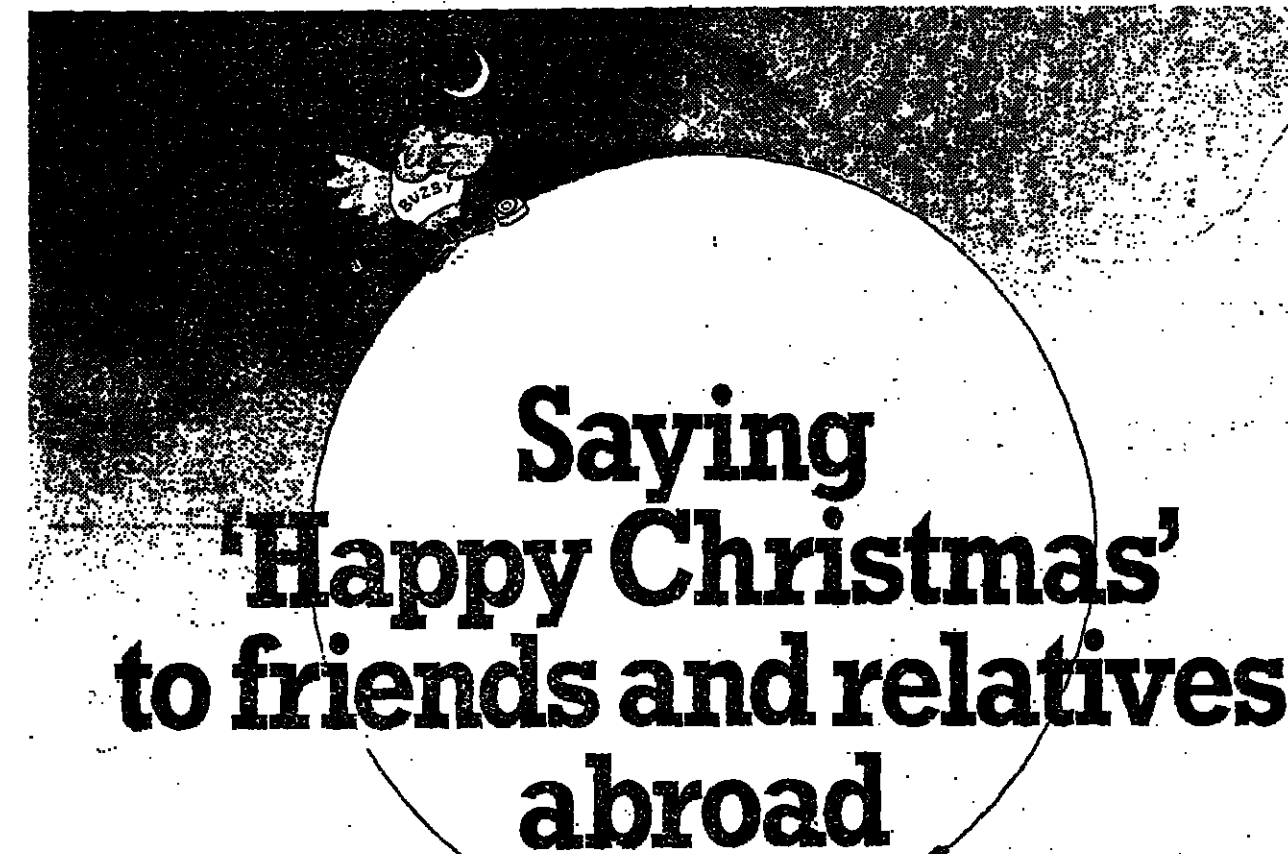
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Saying 'Happy Christmas' to friends and relatives abroad

If you're on International Direct Dialling there are now more than 70 countries that can be dialled direct. And it isn't expensive.

Five minutes of seasonal salutations to Australia will, for example, set you back only £5.71 (this includes VAT) and calls to most countries cost less and have a Cheap Rate. But this does mean there's a lot of demand.

So please spread your calls over the whole holiday period to avoid congestion. To make this easier we are extending the Cheap Rate, where applicable, to cover Boxing Day (except in Scotland).

If the line's engaged, leave it a little while before trying again. And be prepared to wait up to a minute for the call to connect—IDD calls have to travel great distances.

If you're uncertain about a code, a number, or whether a country can be dialled direct, remember to ring International Enquiries well in advance. Some codes are shown in your dialling code booklet.

We like as many of our staff as possible to have Christmas with their families, so there will be no operator assistance available on Christmas Day for calls that can normally be dialled direct.

no special facilities (such as transferred charge, personal or credit card calls), and no Directory Enquiry service.

This will not affect emergency or distress calls. Of course, if you're not yet on IDD, or if the place you want to ring can't be dialled direct, you'll have to book your calls.

The booking arrangements are set out, with telegram details, in the box on the right.

Cut it out and keep it for guidance.

One more thing.

Have a happy holiday.

Post Office Telecommunications We're here to help you

HOME NEWS

Government inquiry called for by judge after man is sentenced for murdering backward young son

After jailing Thomas Menhennott, a farmworker, for life for the murder of his backward son, Stephen, aged 15, Mr Justice Warrick, sitting at the Crown Court, Cornwall, yesterday called for a government inquiry into the case.

He said he was gravely disturbed by what he had heard about the lack of supervision for the young man, and added: "I propose to communicate with the responsible government department in this case, it seems to me."

He spoke after Mr Menhennott, aged 53, of Holy Vale, St Mary's, Isles of Scilly, was found guilty of murdering his son.

The jury of 10 men and two women took almost four hours to reach their verdict, which was by a majority.

The jury were discharged from returning verdicts on four counts of causing grievous bodily harm, but Mr Menhennott was jailed for five years, to run concurrently, for attempting to prevent an inquest being held by burying his son's body in a field near his home.

The court was told that the son had spent some years in local authority homes and hospitals.

After Mr Menhennott had left the dock the judge said: "There is a large question mark which has overhung this case for a long time, which I think must have been and still is exercising the minds of many members of the public and is exercising mine."

"And that is how it came about that with the single homicide exception of Mr Fairweather (the island's dentist), who was obviously exceedingly worried about the condition from which this boy was suffering in the late autumn of 1975, that came into the court, and seems to have done nothing to help that boy, who was obviously in fear of his father."

The boy must, from time to time, have been showing signs of mental illness, of one type or another. He thought it would have been obvious to anyone living in St Mary's that the boy was being ill-treated.

"That is a matter which affects members of that small community," the judge continued, "but that is another matter. If ever there was a problem family, it was the Menhennotts. They have been known for years to one local authority after another, and the problems were notorious."

The boy returned to the island at the end of 1972 from the care of the East Sussex County Council, the judge said. "And I should be failing in my duty if I did not express my concern about what happened."

"I want to know what steps were taken either by East Sussex County Council or by the Cornwall County Council, or both, to see how that boy fared in his new habitat."

Mr David Owen Thomas, QC, for the Crown, said he understood that when East Sussex suggested that the boy should go home to live, Cornwall County Council social services department said that he should not, and refused to accept responsibility "that was being thrust towards them."

Mr David Davies, counsel for East Sussex County Council, said the time came when the boy was 15, when he was due to leave school and the county council found themselves in a bind about what course to take with him.

"They were unable to find work for him, and were unable to find a home. Under these circumstances, and because he wanted to go back, they sent him back."

At that time he was still officially in the council's care. Throughout what the judge described as the "terrible three years" between 1972 and 1975, the council was exercising parental responsibility. Mr Davies accepted that there was a breakdown when there should have been.

Mr Davies said that three authorities were involved, East Sussex, Cornwall, and the Isles of Scilly, which was a county since the 1972 local government reorganization. The Isles of Scilly had said they would do what they could under very difficult circumstances to cope and would help East Sussex. The Council of any difficulties. But the Isles relied in practice on Cornwall for social work advice. Parental responsibility remained with East Sussex.

The judge noted that from the day the boy set foot on the

World's top circus artists show their paces

By Alan Hamilton
Sergeant-Major Philip Astley, late of the 15th Dragoons, knew a thing or two about show business. In 1768 he roped off a ring in a field near what is now Waterloo station, London, performed a few tricks of horsemanship, and invented the modern circus, even laying down its standard ring diameter of 42 feet.

Nothing basic has changed for the 1977 Circus World Championships, except that they have travelled first stops down the Northern Line to Clapham Common. There this week a select company of the world's leading horsemen, tightrope walkers, trapeze artists, jugglers and strong men have been excellent in demonstrating their skills before a panel of seasoned judges.

Acts are judged on content and presentation, performers being required to demonstrate that they are able to accomplish advanced and heart-stopping feats, but not with such ease or nonchalance that their danger or difficulty is hidden.

Manfred Dovel, last year's world champion on the high wire, had a few shaky moments this week: 60 feet above the ring, and Ivan Karl, the diminutive British contender for the strong man title, was knocked right off his perch by two men with sledgehammers pounding a steel plate on his chest.

Some unlikely records are held by this year's contenders. Greg Friel, of the Rocksmith Flyers trapeze troupe, last year became the first man to throw a three-and-a-half somersault in England.

The Flying Gears are one of the few trapeze troupes to have turned four somersaults between leaving one bar and being caught on another. Terry Lemus, of the Flying Terrills, gained an entry in the Guinness Book of Records after she had completed 1,000 triple somersaults in mid-air.



The Mohawk trick riders competing in a championship qualifying round.

Travel firm offer £89 air return to New York

By Arthur Koed
Air Correspondent

Return flights from London to New York for £89 are to be sold next year by Airplan, a division of the south London company, Letchford Tours and Travel.

The fares will be available on flights leaving London on dates in April, May, June, September and October, with return flights on dates in February and March, 1979.

Mr George Clay, managing director of Airplan, said that the fare and one for £150 return to Los Angeles would suit retired people who wished to visit their families in North America.

From next year they could spend between five and 12 months with relatives for no more than the cost of an eight-day holiday in Majorca.

Airplan customers will travel on Laker Airways' wide-bodied DC10 airliners or Boeing 707s. Laker Air Travel recently announced similar fares to New York and Los Angeles for travellers prepared to stay at their destinations for long periods.

Jetsave, claiming to be the leading British travel operator across the North Atlantic, has also announced a return "package" deal from London to New York for £179, including six nights' hotel accommodation.

Ordnance Survey maps to cost more

By a Staff Reporter

The Ordnance Survey has announced the first changes in the price of its products for two years, to take effect today.

There are increases of up to 30 per cent for most small-scale maps, but some prices are reduced.

Price changes for large-scale maps and services for professional users have been linked to the introduction of a new up-dating service and have been

restructured to reflect more closely the costs of different forms of information and to remove anomalies. As a result, some prices in that range of products are down.

The most popular type of small-scale map, the 1:50,000 series, goes up by 22 per cent, from £1.15 to £1.40 for the folded version. Present stocks will be sold at the old prices.

Charges for copyright licences will be increased by 30 per cent

Lord Byers 'fully supports' Mr Steel over the pact

By Our Political Editor

Lord Byers, leader of the Liberal peers, yesterday expressed his full support for Mr David Steel, the party leader, in his pursuit of the parliamentary pact with the Government.

He denied a report in *The Times* yesterday that from his

being non-committal at a Liberal peers' meeting, it must be assumed that he was opposed to the Commons members continuing the pact.

Lord Byers asserted that he made it clear on a number of occasions in the past few days that he fully supported Mr Steel.

Minister calls for simpler benefits scheme

The supplementary benefit system is too complicated for claimants to understand and administer, Mr Enoch Powell, Secretary of State for Social Services, said yesterday. He called for the scheme to be simplified, the appeals system to be improved, and people to be given clearer explanations of their rights.

He said in Oxford that more than 30,000 staff were used in administering the scheme.

"Ministers have got to get away from the idea that they and their civil servants already have all the facts and opinions they need to take the right

decisions, and that anyone who disagrees is either ill-informed or malicious," he said.

"But if open government is to work, those at the other end of the telescope must adjust their focus too; they must face up to the very real financial and other practical difficulties ministers have to deal with."

Not better off: Allegations that many people were better off receiving social security benefits than in work were "grossly misleading," Mr Orme, Minister for Social Security, told the Scottish TUC in Glasgow yesterday.

Compassion led son to kill mother aged 88

The compassion of Alfred Halligan, aged 57, for his aged and suffering mother drove him to take her life, Mr Justice Melford Stevenson was told at the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

After witnessing her deteriorating health and increasing pain and misery, he forced a pair of scissors into her temple.

Mr Halligan, of Heversham Road, Bexleyheath, Kent, was placed on probation for two years after pleading not guilty to murder but guilty to the manslaughter of his mother, Mary Halligan, aged 88, on the ground of diminished responsibility.

Tory returned in GLC by-election

Hayes and Harlington returned a Conservative to the Greater London Council in a by-election on Thursday. The majority was 87 in a 23.8 per cent poll. The GLC constituency is the same as the parliamentary constituency, which returned a Labour MP, Mr Neville Sandelson, at the last general election.

Voting on Thursday was: Mr Andrew Hall (C), 6,143; Mr Peter House (Lab), 5,051; Mr Peter Mee (Nat Prot), 585; Mr Alan Rowland (Lib), 503.

General election: Mr N. D. Sandelson (Lab), 20,521; Mr C. Lyon (C), 6,285; Mr J. G. Fairhurst (Nat Prot), 1,389. Lab majority, 9,420.

Island railway

Approval in principle of a plan for the revival of the railway on Alderney, the only surviving standard gauge railway in the Channel Islands, was given at a meeting of the States of Alderney yesterday.

Councils cut discretionary awards for students

By Our Education Correspondent

Local authorities have been cutting back on discretionary awards for students in further education, the provisional results of a government survey show.

Five thousand more full value discretionary awards would have been made this year if the proportion of students receiving them had been maintained at the same level as two years ago.

Mr. Onkes, Minister of State for Education and Science, is understood to be "shocked and appalled" by the results of the survey of discretionary awards made by local education authorities in England and Wales between 1975-76 and 1977-78.

The survey showed that the number of full value discretionary awards remained constant

at 49,000 over the two-year period. If, however, they had been increased to keep pace with the growth of the 16-19 years group, 5,000 more awards would have been given this year. Two thousand fewer awards were made this year.

Total expenditure for full value discretionary awards in the present academic year is estimated at £58m, compared with £37m in 1975-76. Spending this year on mandatory awards, 90 per cent of which is met directly by central government, is expected to total £426m.

Mrs Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science, has said that the Government would seek powers in an education Bill to permit the Secretary of State to extend mandatory grants to courses that at present attract only awards at the discretion of the local authority.

Body needed for complaints about tribunals

Absence of adequate means of handling complaints of injustice by tribunals is worrying the Council on Tribunals, which supervises and monitors the way they are run.

The council's annual report said yesterday that it lacked statutory authority to conduct effective negotiations. The Lord Chancellor held out no great hope of a satisfactory solution but would think again if complaints increased.

The Annual Report of the Council on Tribunals, House of Commons Paper 108 (Stationery Office, 85p).

Streamlining for manpower services agencies

The Manpower Services Commission is to be streamlined. From next April 1 the commission's operations will be transferred to a single manpower services organization, Mr Booth, Secretary of State for Employment, announced yesterday.

The commission's two executive arms, the Employment Service Agency and the Training Services Agency, will disappear, but the services concerned will be provided by separate divisions of the commission. A third division will be responsible for special programmes for the unemployed.

'Northern Echo' back after dispute

From John Chatterton
Darlington

The *Northern Echo*, published at Darlington again yesterday after 116 issues had been lost because of the dispute over a journalists' closed shop, contained a leading article saying that most newspapers saw danger in allowing a single organization to "govern all editorial staff."

The newspaper, claimed to be the biggest selling provincial daily in England and Wales, was produced by four executives and a district reporter, a member of the Institute of Journalists. The 106 journalists employed by

North of England Newspapers (Westminster Press Ltd) who are members for the National Union of Journalists remain on strike.

Issue no. 33,402 of a publication founded in 1870 comprised 20 pages and included 14 regional news reports supplied either by agencies or by the editorial executives who worked as "telephone reporters" during the day on Thursday and switched to their production functions during the night.

The issue also contained a report on a long on the attempts the management said had been made to resolve the dispute.

The *Northern Echo* and the *Evening Despatch*, which circulates over a smaller area, have been able to resume production because the printers, who had supported the journalists' work on Thursday. The NUJ members began their original stoppage in June. Weekly papers owned by the group will resume publication next week, also with skeleton staffs of 103 or non-union journalists.

The management says that it cannot improve on a "final offer" made to the NUJ members earlier this week (which was rejected) without transgressing the Government's pay policy guidelines.

Q. Who has 4 hotels in the world's top*30?

(Holders of the coveted Diploma of European Excellence)

A. Trust Houses Forte!

George V, Paris (Gen. Manager, André Sonier)
Plaza Athénée, Paris (Gen. Manager, Paul Bougenaux)
The Pierre, New York (Gen. Manager, Henri Manassero)
and now...
The Hyde Park, London
(Gen. Manager, Willy Bauer)



*The Diploma of European Excellence is awarded only to top international hotels by the Comité de l'Excellence Européenne.

HOME NEWS

Arts likely to gain as sponsors seek alternative to sport

By Kenneth Gosling

The sudden revival of sports sponsorship by the tobacco companies, estimated at £7m a year, could have serious implications for many sports and would create particular difficulties for the most expensive events.

That warning is given in an Economist Intelligence Unit report on sponsorship. It mentions concern that sponsorship may increase professionalism, harming sport for leisure or health.

It predicts that as more companies study what they get for their money, the arts are likely to be a growing area, particularly with companies that seek a less extravagant alternative to sports.

The growth of sponsorship, it says, "is likely to be leaner than in the halcyon days of the 1960s. Of the past five years, three have seen sponsorship struggling under economic pressures, yet expenditure has grown to some £30m."

That total could grow to some £45m over the next five years, the report says, adding: "If the activities of Mr Packer should cause cricket sponsorship on this side of the globe to take on a new vitality, that figure might prove an underestimate, while the tobacco companies' money were to be withdrawn abruptly, or the banking and insurance sector were to be nationalized, a downward adjustment in the

estimate would be necessary."

In the arts, sponsorship for this year was at least £1m and growing more quickly than in previous years.

Tobacco companies, accounting for between a quarter and a third of known sponsorship expenditure, had discovered that spending money on sport had brought them almost as much praise as praise; Rothmans, for example, was winning down nearly all activities in that area.

Others had found that while they tended to be berated for reaching nine or ten million supporters through television coverage of their sponsored events, there was no similar criticism when 800,000 people, including many children, travelled to the Pompeii exhibition, which Imperial Tobacco's sponsorship had made possible.

If the tobacco companies withdrew others were able or willing to sponsor sport on a small scale. The report says that in investment economic circumstances the Government would be unlikely to make good any significant part of the estimated £7m a year that came from the tobacco companies.

Sponsorship, EIU Special Report No 41 (Economist Intelligence Unit Ltd, Spencer House, 27 St James's Place, London, SW1A 1NT, £25).

Lead shot poisoning mute swans

By a Staff Reporter

Lead poisoning in swans on some of Britain's most heavily fished waters has been attributed to lead fishing dangles by a team of scientists from the Natural History Museum, London, and the Environment Agency, who have been investigating the problem since last year.

Mr Hunt, writing in the bulletin of the British Trust for Ornithology, states that the condition has been reported most often from heavily fished stretches of the Northamptonshire Trent and the Warwickshire Avon. Cases have also occurred on the river Soar in Leicester, the rivers Slea and Witham in Lincolnshire, on many lakes and gravel pits throughout the Midlands and at a fishing lake in Essex.

The bulletin says that while mute swans can suffer from spectacular poisoning from oil spills, pollution through lead poisoning "is far more insidious, far longer lasting and even more unpleasant".

PCs cleared of beating prisoner

Two policemen, Gary Butler and John Murphy, were acquitted at Nottingham Crown Court yesterday of beating up a newly arrested prisoner.

The officers, sent using violence, PC Butler, aged 25, of Oakfield Road, Hucknall, Nottingham, and PC Murphy, aged 34, of Ingram Road, Bulwell, Nottingham, had both pleaded not guilty to assault causing bodily harm.

14 pc bus fares rise

The Trent Bus Company, which operates throughout the East Midlands, has been given a 14 per cent rise in fares by the Transport Tribunal. Some passengers will have to pay an extra 30p a trip. Trent is still likely to make a firm loss next year unless costs are cut.

Six-day speaking analysis of Scotland Bill debate

By Hugh Noyes
Parliamentary Correspondent
Westminster

An analysis of MPs' participation in the first six days of the committee stage of the Scotland Bill has been compiled by research assistants on behalf of Mr Maurice Macmillan, Conservative MP for Farnham.

Mr Macmillan said that the number of Labour backbenchers attending the debates had been "derisory", indicating their true dislike of the measure. More than a third of the contributions from the Labour benches had come from committed anti-devolutionists, with Mr Tam Dalyell, Labour MP for West Lothian, the most prolific contributor, with 23 speeches and 69 interventions.

Yet Conservative support for the debates, with only 38 MPs taking part, can scarcely be described as enthusiastic. The somewhat better attendance on the Tory side can be accounted for largely by the fact that most of the amendments being debated came from opposition benches.

The only party to have given its all with a total speaking contribution was the Scottish National Party.

The following numbers of speeches (with simple intervention in parentheses) were made by party members:

C. 117 (171); Lab. 79 (144); L. 10 (29); SNP, 13 (35); Scot. Lab. 4 (10); and U. 8 (9).

Those party contributions represented as percentages of the total committee stage debate were:

C. 50.7; Lab. 34.2; L. 4.3; SNP, 5.6; Scot. Lab. 1.7; U. 3.5.

The number of speakers from each party, represented as percentages of their total Commons strength, were:

In brief

Wife cleared of manslaughter

Elsa Bowden, a battered housewife, pushed a knife into her husband's stomach as he was about to smash a broom over her head, it was stated at the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

Mrs Bowden, aged 46, of Stamford Road, West Kensington, London, was charged with the manslaughter of her husband, Alexander Bowden, aged 53.

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WEST EUROPE

Second blow to future of minister in Bonn

From Patricia Clough
Bonn, Dec 16

The political future of Herr Georg Leber, the Defence Minister, looked increasingly uncertain today after a second blow in the wake of Monday's espionage scandal.

The Constitutional Court implicitly criticised the Social Democrat-Free Democrat Government yesterday by temporarily suspending one of its more important and controversial innovations: the right of conscripts to choose freely between military service and social service.

The court pointed out that by December 1 this year there were 130,000 suspected conscientious objectors waiting to do social service while the ministry had only 11,000 vacancies.

The court's action, coming on top of the disclosure that photographs of more than 1,000 top secret ministry documents had apparently been passed to East Germany, was seen by several newspapers as sealing Herr Leber's fate. Some even began to speculate on a successor.

Herr Leber discussed the court's ruling and the espionage scandal with Herr Schmidt, the Chancellor, last night, but a government spokesman denied today that they had talked about his resignation. A Defence Ministry spokesman said today there was no basis to reports that the minister was about to resign.

The right-wing Die Welt claimed today Herr Schmidt was unwilling to let Herr Leber resign before a Cabinet reshuffle which, it said, he planned to make early next year.

It speculated that the supposed reshuffle would be announced in an important government announcement on the domestic, foreign and economic policy which Herr Schmidt has announced that he will make on January 19.

Herr Leber is regarded as a good defence minister and is undoubtedly popular with the armed forces. But there have been charges that he has become increasingly inaccessible and out of touch with the affairs of his ministry. By Leber's own admission that he had not read the ministry's assessment of the damage done by the alleged spies and only learned of its magnitude through the press.

The parliamentary defence committee has begun investigating the affair and is expected to call witnesses, including Dr Kurt Rehnemann, the committee's legal investigations, early next year.

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Mr van Agt: taking over on Monday.

Two old faces in new Dutch Cabinet

From Our Correspondent
Amsterdam, Dec 16

The right-of-centre Dutch Government that is to be sworn in on Monday by Queen Beatrix will have two Cabinet members who also served in the outgoing left-of-centre government of Mr Joop den Uyl, the new Opposition leader.

They are Mr Andries van Agt, the Prime Minister-designate, who was Minister of Justice, and Mr Althons van der Sijpe, also a Christian Democrat, who remains the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries in all three Cabinets.

The youngest member of the van Agt government is also the second highest ranking member. He is Mr Hans Wiegel, leader of the liberal parliamentarian group, who is to be Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior. He is 36.

The important portfolio of finance goes to Mr Frans Andriessen, a Christian Democrat, who was judged too conservative by the Socialists to hold this post. It was over his candidature that talks finally broke down between the Socialists and the Christian Democrats.

Mr Andriessen will be replaced by Mr Klaauw, a Liberal, will be Foreign Minister. He is a professional diplomat with no political experience.

None of the six Liberals in the new Cabinet has any previous experience of ministerial functions.

The new Minister of Social Affairs, Mr Willem Aldreda, a Christian Democrat, is in the odd position that he will have to defend next Thursday a Bill introduced in Parliament by his predecessor Mr Joop den Uyl, which is opposed by the Liberals.

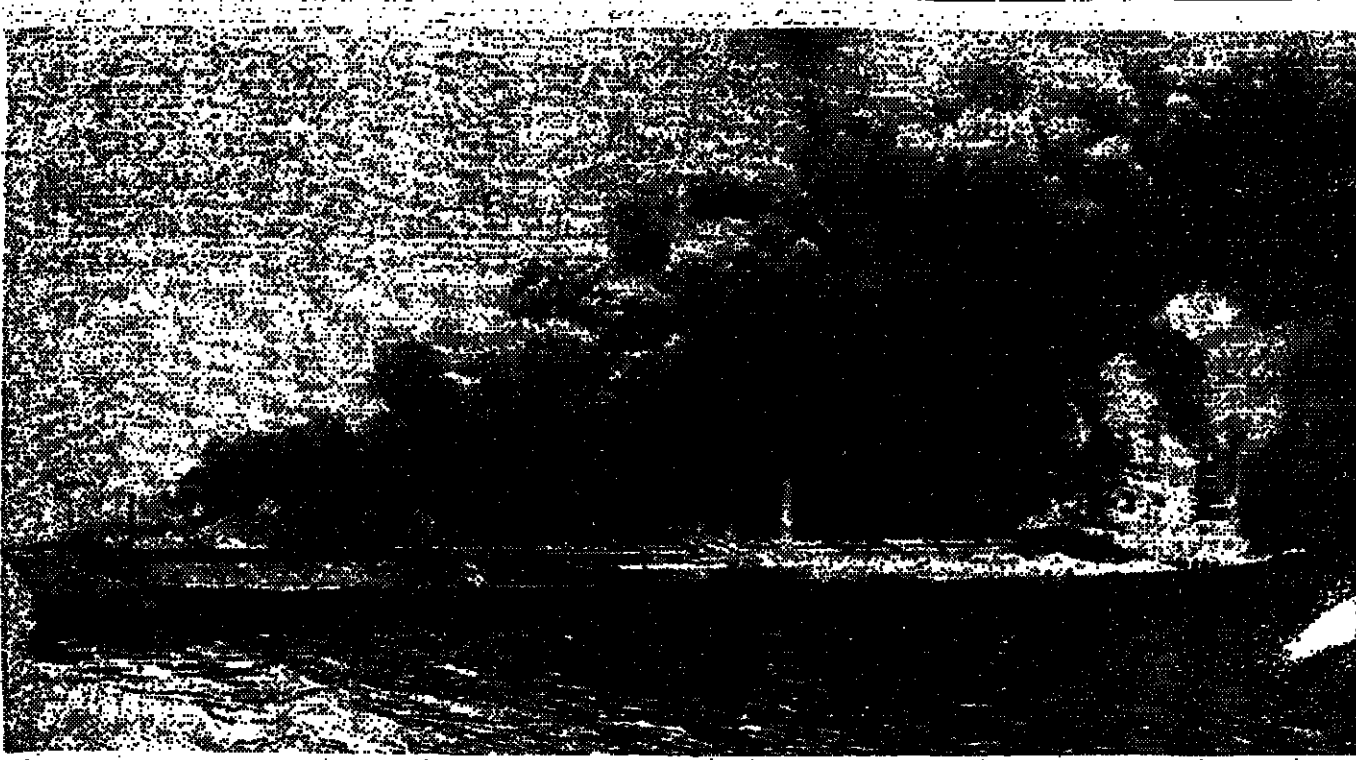
Mr Boersma, who refused a post in the Cabinet, will join the seven left-wing Christian Democrats dissidents in Parliament. This means the van Agt Government will be certain of only 69 votes in the 150-seat House.

The Government's policies should be clarified when it states its intentions before Parliament early in January. The pact on which the coalition is based is vague and will have to be filled in to a large extent by the ministers themselves.

The full Cabinet list is as follows:

Prime Minister: Andries van Agt, aged 50, Christian Democrat; Deputy Prime Minister: Hans Wiegel, 36, Liberal; Minister of Justice: Andries van Agt, 50, Christian Democrat; Minister of the Interior: Althons van der Sijpe, 36, Christian Democrat; Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries: Althons van der Sijpe, 36, Christian Democrat; Minister of Social Affairs: Willem Aldreda, 36, Christian Democrat; Minister of Education and Science: Joop den Uyl, 47, Christian Democrat; Minister of Health: Joop den Uyl, 47, Christian Democrat; Minister of Labour: Joop den Uyl, 47, Christian Democrat; Minister of Transport and Waterways: Daniel Tuijnman, 49, Liberal; Minister of Economic Affairs: Gilbert van Ardenne, 49, Liberal; Minister of Foreign Affairs: Klaauw, 36, Liberal; Minister of Defence: Klaauw, 36, Liberal; Minister of Housing: Klaauw, 36, Liberal; Minister of Public Works: Klaauw, 36, Liberal; Minister of Social Security: Klaauw, 36, Liberal; Minister of Culture: Klaauw, 36, Liberal; Minister of Religion: Klaauw, 36, Liberal; 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OVERSEAS



Thick smoke rises in a black pall above the blazing supertanker Venetia off Cape St Francis.

Pollution menace after supertankers collide

From Our Correspondent Johannesburg, Dec 16

A huge supertanker, laden with 250,000 tons of crude oil, was tonight drifting ashore and abandoned 20 miles off the South African coast. Salvage tugs were racing to the scene to try to avert what could be a unprecedented pollution disaster.

The fully-laden Liberian-registered Venetia (330,954 tons) bound for Europe, collided earlier today in thick fog with the cargo ship, the Venetia, 25 miles off the coast near Port Elizabeth.

The Venetia struck the Venetia starboard side. Both ships caught fire and the Venetia was abandoned within half an hour by her Taiwan crew. Two members of the Venetia's crew were reported missing at first

but later it was said that all 84 seamen were rescued.

An explosion after the collision was felt in the holiday resort of Plettenberg Bay, 27 miles away. But team assistant port captain of Port Elizabeth, Mr Ian Simpson, who is coordinating salvage efforts, said tonight that the fire was confined to bunker oil and the Venetia's cargo had not yet been affected.

A salvage tug was already alongside the Venetia, where the fire was being brought under control, but Mr Simpson said the Venetia was drifting "completely out of hand". The deep sea salvage tug, Wolraad Woltemade, based at Cape Town and one of the most powerful of its type in the world, was expected to reach the area early tomorrow.

An oil slick three miles long

and half a mile wide was moving parallel to the coast.

A helicopter from an oil rig was the first to reach the burning ship. It lowered a few feet above the deck of the blazing Venetia to lift 16 men to safety.

Mr Geoffrey Frielingshaus, commander of the Plettenberg Bay sea rescue unit, said tonight that the helicopter pilot, Mr Buddy Mockford, was a "very brave man", who flew right down into the flames to pick up survivors. "It was a miracle they didn't die."

The helicopter landed the men aboard the tanker Jedforest which is expected to put them ashore at Cape Town tomorrow. Other survivors were on board the British cargo vessel, Clan Menzies. Two other tankers in the area, the Barnaby and Chevron, offered assistance but

were warned to keep clear because of the danger that the two tankers would blow up without warning.

British help: A P & O spokesman in London said the group's 155,000-ton oil-bulk carrier, Jet Forest picked up 38 crew members from the supertankers, all Chinese, who had leapt overboard.

Our Business News Staff writes: With each of the tankers valued at \$28m (about £15m), the collision is almost certain to represent the largest marine loss in history.

A spokesman for Lloyd's said that as much as three-fifths of the risk would have been placed through the London market. Other survivors were on board the British cargo vessel, Clan Menzies. Two other tankers in the area, the Barnaby and Chevron, offered assistance but

Harvard told to halt gene-splicing

Bethesda, Maryland, Dec 16

The National Institutes of Health (the United States Government's main agency for the conduct and support of biomedical research) have for the first time ordered a laboratory to halt gene-splicing research supported by a federal grant because of a procedural violation of the rules governing such studies.

A spokesman for the agency said yesterday that the violation did not involve any known safety rules or laboratory procedures. The action involved a laboratory at Harvard Medical School where recombinant DNA research, popularly known as gene-splicing, has been in progress for several years. The investigation by the agency is continuing. (DNA, or deoxyribonucleic acid, is the substance of genes and there-

fore the key chemical in the heredity of all life.)

The agency supports with funds more than 250 projects in recombinant DNA work at 110 institutions. Such research embraces experimental techniques that have been a subject of much controversy because of the view of some critics that they are potentially dangerous and might lead to deliberate manipulation of heredity in ways the critics consider improper.

Many scientists consider the techniques extremely useful as a tool for learning more about the chemistry of genetics and possibly for developing important medicinal drugs and coping with some presently untreatable genetic diseases.

For about a year, Congress has been considering legislation to set rules for all recombinant DNA research, but has not acted.

The specific procedural violation made known yesterday was Harvard's failure to get an approved memorandum of understanding and agreement concerning the laboratory's experiments before the work actually began. The reason is unknown.

The violation came to light because of a Freedom of Information request from Mr Leslie Dachs of the Environmental Defence Fund, who said that he made the inquiry because of reports that people in the laboratory had been using poor laboratory procedures in some of the experimental work.

The institute investigated and found that the required agreement was not obtained.

The agency is also investigating possible violations of the recombinant DNA rules by a group at the University of California at San Francisco. New York Times News Service.

Concorde flights to Singapore cancelled

By Arthur Reed

Concorde flights between London and Singapore have been cancelled until further notice because of the failure to obtain permission for the aircraft to fly through Malaysian airspace.

The service, operated jointly by British Airways and Singapore Airlines, was suspended yesterday only seven days after it was inaugurated in a burst of publicity. The service cut the flight time between the two cities, which can be as long as 20 hours, to nine and a half hours.

A Concorde was in the air on the way to Singapore when the news reached the crew that the talks in Kuala Lumpur between British and Malaysian Government representatives had failed to reach agreement.

The supersonic service was terminated at Bahrain and passengers were offered seats on subsonic flights for the rest of the journey.

The Malaysians opposed Concorde flights through their airspace because they were piqued over what they saw as a lack of consultation by British Airways. The new service was due to begin. The service was able to start when Indonesia opened its airspace to Concorde, but only for direct return flights. The last of these arrived back in London on Thursday.

British Airways said yesterday: "We are very disappointed. We must now await the outcome of the technical discussions between the two governments, and we will wish to resume services as soon as we possibly can. In the meantime, the Concorde service will continue to operate between London and Bahrain."

The British High Commission in Kuala Lumpur said that the Malaysian Government had agreed to further talks next week and "we naturally hope that these discussions will lead to an early agreement."

NBC signs David Frost in US ratings fight

From Our Own Correspondent New York, Dec 16

The National Broadcasting Company has signed David Frost, the British entertainer, as a surprise weapon in its increasingly fierce battle for supremacy with the other two national networks.

At a press conference last night, Mr Paul Klein, NBC's vice-president for programming, said that Mr Frost would be contracted to the company for three years, and next May would begin a series of six one-hour current affairs programmes.

David Frost has not been seen on American television since his interviews with President Nixon earlier this year. It's been a while since the Nixon interview, but he made a big splash. Mr Klein said, "and people are anxious to see him again."

The programmes will be broadcast live, and will contain "very intimate interviews, and the whole cross-section" of current affairs reporting. Although the project is experimental, NBC must consider almost any risk worth taking to restore its position in the ratings.

For some years NBC vied for top network with the Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS), and the American Broadcasting Company (ABC) was some way behind. Now ABC is the leading network and NBC is trailing last.

Ethiopia 'reign of terror' horrifies US visitors

From Our Correspondent Nairobi, Dec 16

Two American congressmen who met Colonel Mengistu, the Ethiopian military ruler, during a visit to Addis Ababa, today expressed themselves horrified by the nightly killings, and the absence of respect for human rights in the Ethiopian capital.

Mr Paul Tsongas and Mr Don Bonker, who are urging a greater awareness in Congress of the situation in the Horn of Africa, flew here today from Addis Ababa. They said the United States should re-evaluate its ambivalence towards Ethiopia in order to enhance the American presence there.

They also want economic and humanitarian aid to continue, irrespective of the present military situation. The move follows links between Ethiopia and the Soviet Union. But the United States should maintain its embargo on military aid to Ethiopia and Somalia, they said.

At the same time, they expressed horror at the human rights situation. In a tour of Addis Ababa earlier today they saw the bodies of nine people who had been shot as "counter-revolutionaries".

"It was a saddening experience. There is no doubt that there is a reign of terror in Addis Ababa today. It affects everyone and a cloud of fear permeates the city. We understand the death toll last night was around 50, and many of the bodies had deliberately been left on view," Mr Bonker told a press conference here.

The two congressmen are due to visit Somalia tomorrow where they will meet President Barre. They will later visit Egypt and Sudan.

They are the first high level delegation from the United States to have met Colonel Mengistu, and are the only congressmen to have met him personally.

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Australia is to admit 1,050 refugees from Vietnam

Canberra, Dec 16.—The Australian Government will fly 1,050 Vietnamese men, women and children to Australia, the Immigration Department announced today.

The first batch of about 180 will arrive next Friday on a charter flight. The rest will travel on regular flights of the airline Qantas until mid-January.

Mr Michael MacKellar, the Minister of Immigration, has recently sent officials to refugee camps in Thailand and elsewhere in South-East Asia to check on Vietnamese seeking entry to Australia. The move was decided after refugees had reached Darwin in flimsy fishing vessels.

The arrivals of refugees have caused protests from trade unions complaining that the "Vietnamese 'boat people'" were being unfairly favoured by the Government, which waived immigration rules and procedures.

Since the end of the Vietnam war in April, 1975, Australia has taken in just under 5,000 refugees.

600 held after bomb attack in Djibouti

Djibouti, Dec 16.—Troops and police have detained more than 600 people after last night's grenade attack on a popular Djibouti night spot, informed sources said. Two people died and 31 were injured in a restaurant filled with French soldiers.

Reuter.

Bushfires kill two in Australia

Sydney, Dec 16.—Bush fires near Sydney today killed two people, destroyed at least 50 homes and forced hundreds of people, including hospital patients, to flee from the area.

Reuter.

General Zia meets Peking leaders

Peking, Dec 16.—General Zia ul-Haq, Pakistan's chief martial law administrator, arrived in Peking this morning for a "friendly informal visit" after a forced 36-hour stop in Shanghai due to bad weather.

Mr Zia, accompanied by the Chinese Deputy Prime Minister, Mr General Zia at the airport. He arrived on a Chinese Airlines aircraft, accompanied by Mr Huang Hua, the Chinese Foreign Minister. Also present at the brief military welcoming ceremony were Mr Han Nianluo, the Vice-Foreign Minister, and General Yang Chengwu, the Army Assistant Chief of Staff.

The Pakistani embassy staff

General Zia meets Peking leaders

were at the airport and children of the Peking Pakistani community waved Chinese and Pakistani flags. Among other diplomats and officials were the ambassadors of Iran and North Korea.

The non-official visit is the Chinese Government's first contact with the new Pakistani regime since General Zia seized power "five months ago" and arrested the former Prime Minister, Mr Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, who was very close to the Chinese.

The Government and the official Chinese press have said they intend to maintain with General Zia's regime the same friendly relations existing between the two countries since

General Zia meets Peking leaders

Mr Bhutto's frequent visits to Peking.

Tonight General Zia will be guest of honour at a banquet, described by a Chinese official as "bilateral", meaning the foreign diplomatic corps would not attend.

During a banquet in his honour in Shanghai last night, General Zia said Sino-Pakistani friendship and cooperation were a "vital element in ensuring peace and stability in our region."

Mr Huang Hua flew specially to Shanghai on Wednesday evening to join General Zia and attended the banquet given by the Shanghai municipal revolutionary committee. — Agency France-Press.

PARLIAMENT, December 16, 1977

Rash to give a date for direct elections

House of Commons

It would be rash at this stage for the Government to give any undertakings about a specific target date for direct elections to the European Parliament, Mr Frank Judd, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said after announcing forthcoming EEC business.

As the House had exercised its right to choose the first past the post system, the Government had decided to work out and evaluate.

Mr Judd (Portsmouth, North, Lab) said that at present four Council of Ministers' meetings were planned for the year. "I think it is reasonable to expect that the Government will meet (he said) on January 16 and possibly 17, finance ministers possibly on January 15, foreign ministers on January 16, and agriculture ministers on the 23rd and 24th."

Fisheries ministers will continue

their discussion on current fisheries proposals. The agenda for the proposed discussion on common fisheries policy has yet to be settled.

Foreign ministers will consider relations with Spain, Cyprus, Turkey and Yugoslavia; the enlargement of the Community and the GATT multilateral trade negotiations. They will also probably consider European/United States relations, in the light of the new United States nuclear export and non-proliferation legislation resulting from President Carter's statement on April 7, 1977.

Agricultural ministers will resume their discussion on common agricultural policy price proposals for 1978-79; and agricultural monetary questions. They may also give further consideration to support for agricultural producer groups and the organisation of the potato market.

Mr Douglas Hurd, Opposition spokesman on Europe (Mid-Oxon, C)—When does Mr Judd think the foreign ministers will want to decide the question of direct elections? Will the British minister, in the light of the vote in this House last week, give his colleagues an undertaking that provided there is the political will to provide parliamentary time it will be possible to hold elections in the country during the course of next year if that is what the Community decides?

Mr Judd—The Government have made plain both in this House and at meetings of the Council of Ministers the difficulties which we would face if the House decided to go for the first past-the-post system.

I am certain that at forthcoming meetings, because this is a continuing process of review, we will be asked about how we

see the situation. We obviously will do our best to brief ministerial colleagues on how we see the future.

It would be rash at this stage to give undertakings about specific target dates because we believed if we were going to meet the target date, it would have to be a regional list system. The House has exercised its right to choose the other system and, therefore, we have complications which we will have to work out and evaluate.

Mr Alan Beith (Berwick upon Tweed, L)—It would help if the Foreign Secretary (Mr Owen) took someone from the Conservative Front Bench to Brussels in order to explain why they voted to ensure there will not be any direct elections next year.

Mr Judd—That is not for me to deal with.

Repayment of tax to mortgage holders

Mr John Rodgers (Sevenoaks, C) asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he was prepared for the delay in payment of tax rebates to mortgagees.

Mr Robert Shelton, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, in reply said that the Government were aware of the delay in the rate of interest paid to building societies.

Most of these taxpayers will be asked to repay (he said) the reduction in tax from the personal allowances increases will be more than the amount of tax underpaid in the case of the Lloyd's market, the effect may well be to turn the 1977 mortgage overall profit into a marginal loss.

Call for registration of acupuncturists

Mr Sydney Tierney (Birmingham, Yardley, Lab) is an adjournment debate referred to acupuncturists and the need for the registration and control of their premises.

He said that in his constituency there had been a serious outbreak of viral hepatitis B which had been traced to an acupuncturist using an infected needle. To his mind, the Government should consider the disease could cause cancer of the liver and sometimes death.

The practitioner concerned had his surgery in his front living room and a mattress on the floor served as a couch. No wash basin was in the room and the general state of cleanliness of the surgery left much to be desired.

The difficulties of the medical authorities, when they moved in when the outbreak was discovered, were compounded by the fact that that acupuncturist had not kept any record of patients.

There was urgent need for the Government to deal with the problem.

There should be some control over acupuncturists and some check on how many there were in the country.

The Government should legislate for the health and safety of patients and to ensure that local authorities, to decide whether or not to do something about the

Contents of files on Commission officials

European Parliament Strasbourg

Parliament decided to ask one of its committees to look further into its personal questionnaires which dealt with the political views of Commission officials.

It was told by its Committee on the Rules of Procedures and Petitions that it was necessary that the Commission guaranteed the freedom of opinion of its officials. The committee said it understood that the Commission had to guarantee the trustworthiness of a limited number of officials working with highly confidential documents and stressed that the questionnaires of national authorities should not constitute separate files which could influence careers.

The committee had examined a petition from members of the staff committee which asked the European Parliament to ensure that no reference to political, philosophical or religious views was contained in files of officials or other staff.

The petition, in November, 1976, had stated that the Commission had asked its British, Danish and Irish staff to complete a questionnaire concerning their political views.

Mme Marie-Therese Courtmann (France, Comm) said the questions were an attack on human liberty, and a deliberate infringement of the guarantees and fundamental principles of democracy. It was understood that the questionnaires were being carried out.

Mr Tam Dalyell (West Lothian, Lab) said this issue raised the question of whether the Commission should be responsible for Euratom.

Mr John Prescott (Kingston-upon-Hull, East, Lab) said the debate raised some of the most fundamental issues facing everyone, particularly parliamentarians. MPs had the role of guaranteeing and protecting the freedom of individuals in the Community.

It would be better if Parliament did not express its opinion today but asked the committee to look at the issue again. The political groups could discuss the problems.

M. Francois-Xavier Ortoli, for the Commission, said there was the need to preserve security and the freedom of liberty. The Commission used national questionnaires. It did not have, nor wish to have, a police force since 1958 when the system was introduced for Euratom, had any case been brought before the Court of Justice.

Parliament passed a resolution which asked the council of ministers to submit proposals as soon as possible for direct elections to the European Parliament.

Mr Russell Johnston (Inverness, L) who proposed the resolution, said that it was clear that the elections would be delayed following the decision of the House of Commons on Tuesday. History would judge it a sorry decision.

White Paper on airports strategy out in January

Mr Clinton Davis, Under-Secretary for Trade (Hackney, Central, Lab) in reply to an adjournment debate in the House of Commons said that a White Paper on a national airport strategy to change the character of British airports. It would be published in January.

The Government had had a choice between imposing a policy from Whitehall or allowing everybody to offer a view about a national airport strategy to change the character of British airports. If they were to do that, it was bound to take time.

It was up to the last few weeks the Government had had people

High intensity rear lights

Mr John Horam, Under-Secretary for Transport, said in a written reply that it was intended to make regulations requiring that all new vehicles, subject to certain exceptions, should be fitted with at least one high intensity rear fog lamp.

It is also proposed (he said) to require the construction, position and use of such lamps when fitted to both new and existing vehicles. Interested bodies will be consulted before the regulations are made.

It is proposed to make the regulations effective from October, 1979.

Employment of disabled in public sector

The latest figures for the employment of disabled people in the public sector, published last week, showed a decline and gave continued cause for concern, Mr John Grant, Under-Secretary for Employment, said in a written reply to Mr George Rodgers (Shorley, Lab).

Mr Grant added: "It is only right for me to emphasise, however, that the figures do not take into account the disabled employees who have registered. Registration is voluntary and many disabled people in employment who have not registered or who are registered and prefer not to be registered."

The point has been made by chairman of nationalised industries

and public boards in their reply to requests last December to people to give information towards employing disabled people.

In some instances they have suggested that if all disabled people in their employment registered they could have satisfied the target. The same time they have assured me that they would do their utmost to increase the number of disabled people in their employment.

Mr Grant said that other initiatives had been taken by the Civil Service Department and other departments. The Manpower Services Commission had also recently drawn up a development pro-

Queen's Bench Division

programme for its employment and training services for disabled people. The programme would be published in the new year.

I believe that the combined steps which I have described continue to offer the best hopes of achieving an improvement in the numbers of disabled people employed in the public sector.

Nevertheless, I propose to write again to my ministerial colleagues about what more might be done in the areas for which they have responsibility and I shall also be writing to the chairman of organisations in the Department of Employment Group.

Law Report December 16 1977

Cypriot must return to face murder charge

Regina v Governor of Pentonville Prison, Ex parte Kakkis

Before Lord Widgery, Lord Chief Justice, Lord Justice Cumming-Bruce and Mr Justice Farnham

Kyriakos Marion Kakkis, a Cypriot, applied to the Divisional Court for an order of habeas corpus directed to the governor of Pentonville Prison where Mr Kakkis had been detained but had been released on bail, rejected submissions that his return would be contrary to the interests of justice and the Fugitive Offenders Act, 1967.

Section 4(1) provides: "A person shall not be released on bail if it appears—(a) that the offence is an offence of a political character; or (b) by reason of the passage of time since the offence was committed it is not expedient to have him returned to face trial."

The Lord Chief Justice said that the offence was not a political offence. The crime was not incidental to and form part of a political or political party contesting power with the established government. That correctly expressed the law.

In R v Governor of Brixton Prison, Ex parte Schatzky (1964) AC 556, 560 Lord Radcliffe emphasised the fact that it was not enough for there to be bad blood between two individuals. It was necessary that, on the one side, there should be the state and that the individual should be "at odds with the state."

His Lordship could find nothing in the papers properly before the court which would justify the conclusion that the offence was an offence of a political character within section 4(1) and in line with the authorities summarized in R v Governor of Brixton Prison.

His Lordship's reference had been made to the onus of proof, but nothing had been said about it which could not be said about any other form of litigation in this country. The court had to survey the whole of the material provided, and Mr Blom-Cooper's first proposition failed.

notwithstanding that the warrant was still in existence. The deputy Attorney General of Cyprus had deposed that, from April, 1973, to July, 1974, the applicant was in custody on a charge of murder. From July, 1974, to February 11, 1976, the Attorney General of Cyprus deposed that it would not be the public interest to begin proceedings against the applicant because the abnormal circumstances prevailing in Cyprus as a result of the coup and the Turkish invasion, did not at that time permit prosecution of persons who had participated in the coup, such as the applicant, for any offence committed before the coup. That attitude was dictated by the need for pacification pending the healing of the wounds caused by the coup and the invasion and the consequent dismantling of any remaining group of participants in the coup.

What section 8(3) contemplated was passage of time rather than delay. Passage of time was to be regarded as a bar to the return of a person unless it would, having regard to all the circumstances, be unjust or oppressive to return him.

R v Governor of Pentonville Prison, Ex parte Kakkis (1977) 2 WLR 862 was helpful because it indicated the extent to which blamelessness relating to the

Queen's Bench Division

Cypriot must return to face murder charge

passage of time was a relevant factor. Any passage of time when the applicant was in the hills had to be excluded. That still left something like 21 years' passage of time to be considered.

Mr Woolf sought to persuade the court that, although delay of 21 years was substantial, it was not to be regarded as blamelessness because the situation in Cyprus was unusual and delicate, and all sorts of sensitive elements were present.

His Lordship thought that the deputy Attorney General's affidavit should be accepted as being an illumination of the particular facts causing the passage of time. It was impossible in the face of what had been said about the difficulties in bringing proceedings earlier for their Lordships to say that the order of return should be refused by virtue of section 8.

Once that conclusion was reached, there was nothing left in the case and the application should be refused.

Lord Justice Cumming-Bruce and Mr Justice Farnham agreed.

An application for leave to appeal to the House of Lords was refused.

Solicitors: Munds, Stibbs & Co. Richmond; and Messrs Russell & Co. Treasury Solicitor.

Comparability of jobs

Macarthy Ltd v Smith

A person claiming under the Equal Pay Act, 1970, is entitled to compare her situation with that of a former employee. That would be in accordance with the Appeal Tribunal's settled approach to the Act—constructing and applying it so that it would work in practice.

In any case except one where the interval between the employment was short and another came, the claim should proceed with caution. The ordinary case, and the case in which the Appeal Tribunal's judgment justified giving the Act a liberal construction, was that where shortly after one employee left another came, the claimant's work but was remunerated at a lower rate.

Leave to appeal was granted.

Macarthy Ltd v Smith

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Leave to appeal was granted.

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Saturday Review

Barchester lives on

by Jan Morris

Searching on a wistful whim for Barchester, I came to Wells in Somerset. I craved the Trollopian scene not for itself exactly but for its myth of a Golden Age. Of course, I wanted the incidentals too, the bells across the close, the fine old ladies taking tea beneath college rowing groups featuring, at stroke, their uncle the late Precentor. I wanted the mingled smell of dry rot and market cabbage. I hoped to catch a glimpse of the Organist and Choirmaster, pulling his gown over his shoulders as he hurried across to evensong. But like many other romantics, all over the western world, I hungered really for the hierarchal certainty of the old England, that amalgam of faith, diligence, loyalty, independence and authority which Trollope mischievously enshrined in the legends of his little city.

At least Wells looks impeccable from the part. As one descends from the spooky heights of Leadspite, haunted by spellbound and Roman snails, it lies here in the lee of the hills infinitely snug and wholesome. No motorway thunders anywhere near. It is 14 miles to the nearest railway station. Though Wells has been a city since the tenth century, it is still hardly more than an ample village, dutifully assembled around the towers of the cathedral: and though beyond it one may see the arcane bumps and declivities of the Glastonbury plain, there is nothing very mystical to the place: its accent is homely Somerset, and its aspect rubicund.

In no time at all I had found myself a room, low-beamed and flower-patterned, in the Crown Hotel overlooking the Market Square, where a rival swimmer thrived down the gutter past the old town centre, and hardly less promptly, as it happened, I found myself fixed for parking too, outside Penelope's Porch, rough whose squinted archway the green of the precinct had too soon enticed me, and above whose tower the great grey mass of the cathedral self looked benignly down upon warden and miscreant alike.

Almost at once, too, I met the Dean, actually in the shadow of the Porch. Eton, Oxford and the Welsh Guards, he was not hard to identify. In the cathedral, I later discovered, they call him "Father Mitchell", a disconcerting usage to one of my purposes, but I certainly could not complain about his authenticity on Dean. With a splendid concern his voice rang out, as we sat there on the beggars' bench watching the citizenry pass by—"Good morning, good morning! Lovely day! What a success yesterday—what would we have done without you? Morning Simon! Morning John! Morning John! (John Harvey, you know, our greatest authority on medieval church architecture...)"

The Dean of Wells is a very busy man indeed. He showed me his diary, and it was chock-a-block—even Thursday, resolutely marked as his day off, was nibbled into by a meeting of the Judges' Lodgings Committee. It seemed more the life of an impresario than a cleric, and this is because a cathedral nowadays is far more than just a shrine, but is partly a social centre, partly a concert hall, partly a tourist attraction, and in the case of Wells, very largely a National Concern. A few years ago it was realized that the west front of Wells Cathedral, incorporating an unrivalled gallery of not very exciting but undeniably medieval statuary, was crumbling away: the consequent appeal, launched by an obscure firm of professional painters, suddenly made Wells, like Venice, better known for its decay than for its survival, and added a new dimension to the life of the very Reverend the Dean.

It crossed my mind, indeed, that ubiquitous were the symptoms of restoration, that the cathedral's chief function had become its own repair. The building itself, clouded with scaffolding, tap-taps with the

hammers of the masons. One frequently sees the Dean, cast-socked and umbrella'd, gazing with solicited eyes at a leprous, evangelist or precariously cornice. Outside the west doors there stands a superannuated Victorian pillbox, painted bright blue, for the acceptance of contributions, and hardly a week seems to pass without some food-raising function beneath the bold inverted arches of the nave (themselves a restorative device, or they were hastily erected when, in 1338, the central tower lurched twelve feet out of true).

But no, the Dean reassured me over lunch, the true focus of cathedral life remained the daily services which, however infinitesimal the congregation are held now as always in the pannelled seclusion of the choir. Behind the scenes the immemorial functions of the cathedral continue, each with its titular chief: the Baron of the exchequer, the Chancellor, the Master of the Fabric, the Communal, the Chief Steward. The Dean still presides over the Quinquagesima of his Chapter. The Prior-Vicars, the Lay Vicars, the Canons, Residential, the vergers, the 21 choristers—all are there to offer their gifts and energies to the daily affirmation of the faith.

I took him at his word, and went the afternoon to evensong: or rather, like nearly everybody else in sight, I loitered about the interior of the cathedral while evensong proceeded beyond the narrow entrance of the choir—allowing me, from the dimmer recesses of the nave, suggestive glimpses of surplises, shaded lamps, anthem sheets and musical motions within. It was magical. The rest of the great building lay in hush, haunted only by self-consciously shuffling groups of sightseers, and encapsulated there in their bright-lit chamber, as though in heavenly orbit, the Dean, his canons, the musicians and a handful of devoted worshipers performed their evening ritual.

The anthem was S. S. Wesley's *Thou Wilt Keep Him*, among the most lyrical in the repertoire, and it was touching to see how many of the tourists learnt in silence against pillars, or paused thoughtfully in their decipherment of epigraphs as the sweet melody sounded through the half-light.

"Can I go and meet Daddy now?" I heard a voice say from the cathedral shop, near the west door (where Mr John Harvey's work seemed to be selling well). "He's bound to be down from the loft by now." He was, the last note of the voluntary having faded away into the Lady Chapel, and presently the Organist and Choirmaster, his wife, his two daughters and I were comfortably before a fire in Vicars' Close, the exquisite double row of 14th century houses, which runs away to the north of the Chapter House, (and which is the only part of the Wells cathedral precinct properly called the Close). Here was Barchester all right! An Oxford print hung above the fireplace, a cat luxuriated on the hearth; books, musical instruments, edibles and Cézanne were all equally to hand.

"It was by no means the only musical house in the neighbourhood, for the cathedral precinct of Wells, if it sometimes suggests show business and often package tours, some times feels like one gigantic conservatoire. Muffled from within the cathedral walls, any hour of the day, one may hear the organ rumbling. Celestial through the open doors come snatches of *Thou Wilt Keep Him*. From old grey houses around the green sound snatches of string quartet, trombone arpeggios or tinkles of Cézanne. Landis has the Organist, and Choirmaster finished one performance than he is up there again with his choristers, high in their medieval practice room behind Penelope's Porch, rehearsing Wood in C Minor for the following day.

If faith is the reason for Wells, music is its most obvious diligence. Wells Cathedral School is one of the three schools in England offering specialist education for musically gifted children, tracing its origins to a Song School of the thirteenth century, while the music of the cathedral itself is intensely professional. I much enjoyed this feeling of disinterested

technique, so remote from commercial competition, which union claim. I saw something truly noble to the spectacle of that daily choral celebration, performed to the last degree of excellence, attended by almost nobody but the celestials themselves: a practice more generous, more frank, more English (I ventured to suppose) than micastolicism or micastolicism, and more acceptable actually, than might think to the sort of gods I myself cherish, the gods of the stones and the lavender, than to the Christian divinity to whom it has, for a thousand years, uninterruptedly been offered.

Before I left Vicars' Close, the children invited me to write something in their autobiography. Visitors always did, they said. I looked with interest at the previous entries, expecting to find there, as one would in a Barchester book, the names of visiting politicians, magistrates or men of letters: but no, they were musicians almost to a crawl—the composers, the instrumentalists, the teachers who pass in a constant stream these days through the busy precincts of Wells. (When I saw what witty things they had written there, I could think of nothing comparable pithy to say myself, so I drew a couple of pictures of the cathedral instead.)

Thought you said you couldn't draw," the children kindly said. "We think you're jolly good."

The loyalty essential to the myth of Englishness is of course, embodied in Wells in

the fabric of the cathedral itself, and the enclosure of grass, garden and old stone that surrounds it. For a millennium there have been people in Wells who have devoted themselves to this structure, and it seemed to me that the corporate possession of the little town, like some grand totem or fetish, must powerfully augment the citizenry's sense of community or comradeship.

In a marvelous clutter of sheds, blueprints and piles of stone, tucked away behind the cloisters, works the Master-Mason of the cathedral, Mr Bert Wheeler. Everybody in Wells, Town or Close, knows Mr Wheeler. "You've seen Bert Wheeler?" they used to ask me almost anxiously, lest I might have missed him, and if I quoted his opinion on something, the age of an arch, the angle of a substructure, all argument was stilled. Mr Wheeler has been associated with Wells Cathedral since 1933, and there is hardly an inch of the fabric that he had not befriended.

How easy it would be, I thought, to fall in love with such a building, and to spend one's life getting to know it, or more usefully perhaps, keeping it there! In the shadow of such permanence, surely life's transient miseries would pass one by? The Master-Mason smiled enigmatically: he is a very practical man. He first fell victim himself to the enchantment of the cathedral when as a small boy he wriggled

through a prohibited aperture somewhere in the masonry and so discovered for himself the infinite complexity of the place. Now he knows it all, its unsuspected corridors, and hidden galleries, its vaults and its cloisters, and through his yards and offices pass all the architects, the restorers, the masons, the accountants, the surveyors and the builders' merchants perpetually engaged, as they have been for so many centuries, in maintaining the holy structure. He was like the Master-at-Arms on a warship, I thought, beneath whose experienced eye the workaday life of the vessel goes on, leaving the men on the bridge above, like those priests and choristers at evensong, free to attend to the navigation.

Then there is the Horologist. The most beloved single artifact in Wells Cathedral, I would say, is the medieval Great Clock in the north transept. It is claimed to possess the oldest working clock-face in Europe: whenever it strikes the hour four little horsemen, whirling round and round, knock each other off their wooden horses with lances, while a deadpan character called Jack Blandiver sits stiffly on his seat high on a wall near by, nods his head, hits one bell with a hammer, and kicks two more with his heels.

Every morning at half past eight or so, if you hang round High Street, you may see Mr Ken Fisher, of Fisher's the Clockmakers, on his way to wind this endearing timepiece.

His father did it before him, his son will doubtless follow, never was a labour more beloved. "There's old Jack," says Mr Fisher affectionately as he unlocks the door to the clock gantry, and looks up at the quaint old figure on the wall: and when you have climbed the narrow winding steps, and emerged on the gallery high above the chancel, looking through the inverted arches to the empty nave beyond, then he opens the big glass doors of the mechanism as one might open a cabinet of treasures.

The works are Victorian, the originals being in the Science Museum at South Kensington, and Mr Fisher admires them enormously. What workmanship! What precision! Look at those cogs! Feel how easily the handle turns! (There are three separate movements to be wound up each morning, with a big iron handle, and Mr Fisher is not averse to his visitors helping with the work.) I caught his mood at once, and found the experience oddly soothing. Everything felt wonderfully handmade up there, so rich in old wood and dressed stone, with the elaborate gleaming mechanism slowly ticking, and Mr Fisher in his shirt-sleeves cherishing it, and the beautiful cool space of the cathedral beneath one's feet.

"Wouldn't it be good," I said, "if everything in life felt like this?" "Ah, wouldn't it," said he, resuming his coat after the exertion of the clock-winding. "But you have to work for it, you see. It doesn't look after itself! Come here now, look down here"—and he showed me down a little shaft to the circular platform on which the four knights of the Great Clock, relieved from their eternal tour until the next quarter-hour, were resting woodenly on their arms. "Now those fellows down there take a lot of looking after. They break so easily, you see. Well they would, wouldn't they, hitting each other with their lances every quarter of an hour? You can't expect them to last for ever, knocking each other about like that!"

In a curious way, I felt, the cathedral was more the property of the Town than of the Close. Bishops, Deans and Canons come and go (only three Deans have gone on to be Bishops of Bath and Wells), but the shopkeepers and the businessmen, the farmers, even the traders who bring their vans and stalls to Wells Market every week—these people live all their lives in the presence of the great building, and must feel it to be part of their very selves. Wells has its own magnificent parish church of St Cuthbert, often mistaken by the tourists for the cathedral itself. It has a substantial landed interest and some thriving small industries. But still every street seems to look, every alley seems to lead almost every conversation seems somehow to turn, to that ancient presence beyond Penelope's Porch.

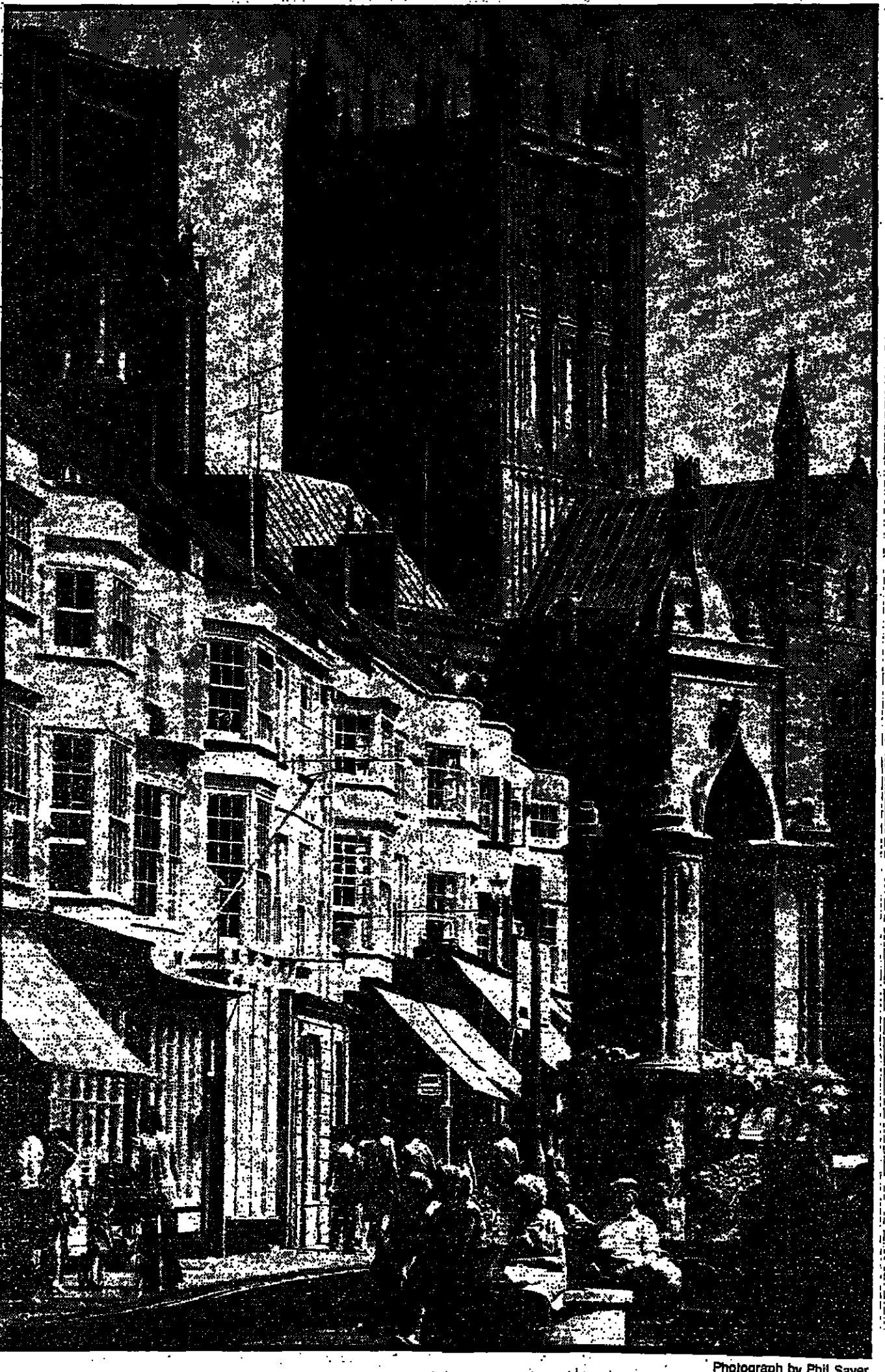
To discover how jealously Wellsians are citizens of Wells complicated call themselves, regard the affairs of the Close, I went to see the newspaper editor. Like nearly everything in Wells, his office is only a step or two from the cathedral, almost opposite the Spar (and just up the road from the King's Head which has been unenvyingly metamorphosed into a fine daily services in the private chapel—nowadays the Bishop prays there alone. Gone is the daunting approach to the episcopal presence, never to be forgotten by curates of long ago, when after treading the long, stately corridors of the palace, through the dark gallery lined with portraits of earlier prelates, they timidly opened the door of the great study to discover his Lordship, against a scintillating background of theological treatises, tremendously at his labours).

The Bishop himself recalled that vanished consequence for me. Now he and his distinctly un-Proudean wife live more modestly, more sensibly no doubt, more Christianly I suppose, but undeniably less impressively, in their nicely done-up wing. His new study, furnished in pale woodwork by the Church Commissioners, is unexpectedly embellished, around the tops of its bookcases, with a text not from Leviticus or the Sermon on the Mount, but from King Alfred. His visitors' book, when I signed it, contained on the previous page the signature of Peter O'Toole. His car is a Rover—"such a blessing when you're overtaking on a narrow Somerset road". This is a very modern, very functional bishopric.

For here at the core the times have overtaken Barchester. The majesty has left the palace. Crowds of people throng to those conference rooms, taking their cafeteria luncheons on canteen tables in the undercroft (two of the gilded mure looms large as ever, but anomalous). Often the gardens are open to the public, and at any time of day sightseers are to be observed hanging over the gates, inside the great gatehouse above the moat, inadequately (to my mind) asserts the privacy of the bishopric.

Nobody could represent these changes more persuasively than the present Bishop and his wife, who sit in their modest private corner of the gardens, as a Bishop and his lady should, relishing the green and the grey of it all, the long mellow line of their ancient wall, the sweep of the trees and the drop of the trumpet vine, the Turneresque ball of the ruined banqueting hall, the silent towers of the cathedral beyond. But it is not the same. Atavistic that I am, yearning sometimes from the austerity of Wales for some of the gorgeous and heedless assurance that used to characterize our magnificent neighbour—magical in this way for the England I am just old enough to remember, I missed the purple swag and the swank.

For it was partly the conceit of it, Trollope's hubris of the cloth, that captured our imaginations once—now gone it seems, for better or for worse, as utterly from Barchester as from Simla or Singapore.



Photograph by Phil Sayer

if not by the person, at least by the office of the Bishop, splendidly identified by his accoutrements, his circumstances and his privileges; but the Anglican Bishop of tradition, gloriously fortified by material well-being and spiritual complacency—the grand figure of fancy has long gone the way of the Empire-builder and the top-hatted Station-Master.

As it happens the Bishop's palace at Wells is perhaps the most splendid Bishop's Palace of all. Surrounded by its own moat, its own castellated walls, its own parkland beyond, it stands on the edge of Wells, in the flank of the cathedral, looking across green fields into the depths of Somerset. It is like a fortress, and though the enormous banqueting hall is now only a picturesque ruin, still the palace is a terrific spectacle. Duck of many varieties paddle its moat, and the celebrated flotta of swans, which, for several generations, rang the bell at the gatehouse for their vicarials, has recently been restocked and restrained for the exercise. The palace itself stands grandly around its yard, with a huge pillared refectory, and a fine library, and a private chapel—in which, within living memory, daily choral services were held for the Bishop, his family and his servants.

But alas, no majestically awful Mrs Proudie greeted me at the palace door. Nobody greeted me at the main door at all, for the Bishop of Bath and Wells now lives only in the north wing of the structure, the rest being devoted to conferences and other useful activities. In Wells, his office is only a step or two from the cathedral, almost opposite the Spar (and just up the road from the King's Head which has been unenvyingly metamorphosed into a fine daily services in the private chapel—nowadays the Bishop prays there alone. Gone is the daunting approach to the episcopal presence, never to be forgotten by curates of long ago, when after treading the long, stately corridors of the palace, through the dark gallery lined with portraits of earlier prelates, they timidly opened the door of the great study to discover his Lordship, against a scintillating background of theological treatises, tremendously at his labours).

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Weekend Broadcasting

TV CHOICE

The really positive thing that one can say on the avid box-watcher is that this weekend perhaps promises better things to come over Christmas.

Today
 7.45 pm, BBC 2. BBC gets into the Christmas spirit ahead of time by using the interval of The Barber to teach us how to cook Tournedos Rossini. The before and after are worth watching also.

8 pm, ITV. If, on the other hand, you saw Lively Arts' offering the first time around, you may, like me, choose the breathtaking Circus World Championships. Certainly a good play for open-bellied children.

11.15, ITV. Not a bad way to end tonight is Filmharmonic 77. Some of the twentieth-century's most lasting music has been composed for film and television. Here is a chance to compare. Tomorrow 1.30 pm, ITV London. James Street-Porter in The London Weekend Show investigates what is one of the world's

most powerful potential influences: Islamism. But why during lunch?

6.15 pm, ITV. Yorkshire opens the Christmas bunting for ITV with an Easter Offering, Part I of Messiah—but no less acceptable for being out of time.

9 pm, BBC 2. In this weekend of spy-watching and spy-suspecting, what better than The Lively Arts' look at the greatest master of them all: Mr. Lee Deighton?

What's more, it is one of Melvyn Bragg's positively last appearances on the non-profit-making channel.

11.20 pm, ITV London. It is hard to see why The London Programme is a London-only programme, especially when it characteristically tackles a quasi-subject like subsidizing the National Theatre. If in error, worth switching to.

Iain Redpath

THE WEEK'S FILMS

Screen International returns briefly with Milady (tonight, BBC 2, 10.20) a film which reveals a brighter side of the talent of Francois Leterrier than Goodbye Emmanuelle. It is the story of a cavalry officer's obsessive devotion to his wife with love and force performances by the stone-faced Jacques Dufilho and a handsome gelding masquerading as a man.

The BBC's Vincente Minnelli season continues, and today presents a charming, delicate and only slightly sloppy story of a whirlwind Second World War romance, made in 1945 while Judy Garland and Robert Walker, Two Weeks in Another Town (BBC2, 11.30) is the sort of over-heated melodrama they liked around 1960, with Kirk Douglas as a movie star in Rome (it was the great era of Hollywood in Europe) trying to recover from divorce, alcoholism, professional failure and a nasty car crash.

It is a occasion for the movie backslapper, as his wife, Judy Garland, is a C. Robinson; but Douglas has a better chance with Lust for Life (tonight, BBC2, 10.15 pm), one of the peaks of the great era of Minnelli-Gene Kelly musicals, climaxed by the great dream sequence which remains one of the outstanding accomplishments of film ballet.

It certainly makes Norman Jewison's Fiddler on the Roof

(tomorrow, BBC1, 7.15) look a very flat-footed effort, however devoted you may be to the songs. Otherwise the week is strong on nostalgia. Tomorrow (BBC1, 1.55) there is George Cukor's David Copperfield, a classic adaptation which without being lavishly literal taught the whole essence of the work. It was Freddie Bartholomew's first big success and was W. C. Fields' unforgettable, authentically Dickensian Micawber. On Thursday (BBC1, 2 pm) you can see one of the best Danny Kaye vehicles. Wonder Man (1945), which as usual gives him a schizophrenic dual role, this time as a bookish fellow and the ghost of his song-and-dance-man brother, Lennie Come Home (Friday, BBC1, 1.30 pm) was Lennie's debut and the second screen appearance of 12-year-old Elizabeth Taylor, supported by great old character players like Dame May Whitty, Edmund Gwenn and a trapeze artist running away from himself) and on Friday (BBC1, 1.55 pm) King Creole, a 1958 "youth" film which was an early Harold Robbins adaptation. Coming a little more up to date, it will be interesting to see how Bonnie and Clyde (Friday, BBC1, 10.05 pm), which launched the Sixties craze for period gangster movies and established a new level of screen violence, looks after a decade.

David Robinson

SATURDAY TV

BBC 1
 9.15 am, Bagpuss. 9.30, Multi-Coloured Swap Shop. 12.15 pm, Grandstand. 1.20, Football Focus. 12.45, 1.30, 2.25, 2.35, 3.25, 4.15, 5.05, 5.55, 6.45, 7.35, 8.25, 9.15, 10.05, 10.55, 11.45, 12.35, 1.25, 2.15, 3.05, 3.55, 4.45, 5.35, 6.25, 7.15, 8.05, 8.55, 9.45, 10.35, 11.25, 12.15, 1.05, 1.55, 2.45, 3.35, 4.25, 5.15, 6.05, 6.55, 7.45, 8.35, 9.25, 10.15, 11.05, 11.55, 12.45, 1.35, 2.25, 3.15, 4.05, 4.55, 5.45, 6.35, 7.25, 8.15, 9.05, 9.55, 10.45, 11.35, 12.25, 1.15, 2.05, 2.55, 3.45, 4.35, 5.25, 6.15, 7.05, 7.55, 8.45, 9.35, 10.25, 11.15, 12.05, 12.55, 1.45, 2.35, 3.25, 4.15, 5.05, 5.55, 6.45, 7.35, 8.25, 9.15, 10.05, 10.55, 11.45, 12.35, 1.25, 2.15, 3.05, 3.55, 4.45, 5.35, 6.25, 7.15, 8.05, 8.55, 9.45, 10.35, 11.25, 12.15, 1.05, 1.55, 2.45, 3.35, 4.25, 5.15, 6.05, 6.55, 7.45, 8.35, 9.25, 10.15, 11.05, 11.55, 12.45, 1.35, 2.25, 3.15, 4.05, 4.55, 5.45, 6.35, 7.25, 8.15, 9.05, 9.55, 10.45, 11.35, 12.25, 1.15, 2.05, 2.55, 3.45, 4.35, 5.25, 6.15, 7.05, 7.55, 8.45, 9.35, 10.25, 11.15, 12.05, 12.55, 1.45, 2.35, 3.25, 4.15, 5.05, 5.55, 6.45, 7.35, 8.25, 9.15, 10.05, 10.55, 11.45, 12.35, 1.25, 2.15, 3.05, 3.95, 4.85, 5.75, 6.65, 7.55, 8.45, 9.35, 10.25, 11.15, 12.05, 12.55, 1.45, 2.35, 3.25, 4.15, 5.05, 5.95, 6.85, 7.75, 8.65, 9.55, 10.45, 11.35, 12.25, 1.15, 2.05, 2.95, 3.85, 4.75, 5.65, 6.55, 7.45, 8.35, 9.25, 10.15, 11.05, 11.95, 12.85, 1.75, 2.65, 3.55, 4.45, 5.35, 6.25, 7.15, 8.05, 8.95, 9.85, 10.75, 11.65, 12.55, 1.55, 2.45, 3.35, 4.25, 5.15, 6.05, 6.95, 7.85, 8.75, 9.65, 10.55, 11.45, 12.35, 1.25, 2.15, 3.05, 3.95, 4.85, 5.75, 6.65, 7.55, 8.45, 9.35, 10.25, 11.15, 12.05, 12.95, 1.85, 2.75, 3.65, 4.55, 5.45, 6.35, 7.25, 8.15, 9.05, 9.95, 10.85, 11.75, 12.65, 1.65, 2.55, 3.45, 4.35, 5.25, 6.15, 7.05, 7.95, 8.85, 9.75, 10.65, 11.55, 12.45, 1.35, 2.25, 3.15, 4.05, 4.95, 5.85, 6.75, 7.65, 8.55, 9.45, 10.35, 11.25, 12.15, 1.05, 1.95, 2.85, 3.75, 4.65, 5.55, 6.45, 7.35, 8.25, 9.15, 10.05, 10.95, 11.85, 12.75, 1.55, 2.45, 3.35, 4.25, 5.15, 6.05, 6.95, 7.85, 8.75, 9.65, 10.55, 11.45, 12.35, 1.25, 2.15, 3.05, 3.95, 4.85, 5.75, 6.65, 7.55, 8.45, 9.35, 10.25, 11.15, 12.05, 12.95, 1.85, 2.75, 3.65, 4.55, 5.45, 6.35, 7.25, 8.15, 9.05, 9.95, 10.85, 11.75, 12.65, 1.65, 2.55, 3.45, 4.35, 5.25, 6.15, 7.05, 7.95, 8.85, 9.75, 10.65, 11.55, 12.45, 1.35, 2.25, 3.15, 4.05, 4.95, 5.85, 6.75, 7.65, 8.55, 9.45, 10.35, 11.25, 12.15, 1.05, 1.95, 2.85, 3.75, 4.65, 5.55, 6.45, 7.35, 8.25, 9.15, 10.05, 10.95, 11.85, 12.75, 1.55, 2.45, 3.35, 4.25, 5.15, 6.05, 6.95, 7.85, 8.75, 9.65, 10.55, 11.45, 12.35, 1.25, 2.15, 3.05, 3.95, 4.85, 5.75, 6.65, 7.55, 8.45, 9.35, 10.25, 11.15, 12.05, 12.95, 1.85, 2.75, 3.65, 4.55, 5.45, 6.35, 7.25, 8.15, 9.05, 9.95, 10.85, 11.75, 12.65, 1.65, 2.55, 3.45, 4.35, 5.25, 6.15, 7.05, 7.95, 8.85, 9.75, 10.65, 11.55, 12.45, 1.35, 2.25, 3.15, 4.05, 4.95, 5.85, 6.75, 7.65, 8.55, 9.45, 10.35, 11.25, 12.15, 1.05, 1.95, 2.85, 3.75, 4.65, 5.55, 6.45, 7.35, 8.25, 9.15, 10.05, 10.95, 11.85, 12.75, 1.55, 2.45, 3.35, 4.25, 5.15, 6.05, 6.95, 7.85, 8.75, 9.65, 10.55, 11.45, 12.35, 1.25, 2.15, 3.05, 3.95, 4.85, 5.75, 6.65, 7.55, 8.45, 9.35, 10.25, 11.15, 12.05, 12.95, 1.85, 2.75, 3.65, 4.55, 5.45, 6.35, 7.25, 8.15, 9.05, 9.95, 10.85, 11.75, 12.65, 1.65, 2.55, 3.45, 4.35, 5.25, 6.15, 7.05, 7.95, 8.85, 9.75, 10.65, 11.55, 12.45, 1.35, 2.25, 3.15, 4.05, 4.95, 5.85, 6.75, 7.65, 8.55, 9.45, 10.35, 11.25, 12.15, 1.05, 1.95, 2.85, 3.75, 4.65, 5.55, 6.45, 7.35, 8.25, 9.15, 10.05, 10.95, 11.85, 12.75, 1.55, 2.45, 3.35, 4.25, 5.15, 6.05, 6.95, 7.85, 8.75, 9.65, 10.55, 11.45, 12.35, 1.25, 2.15, 3.05, 3.95, 4.85, 5.75, 6.65, 7.55, 8.45, 9.35, 10.25, 11.15, 12.05, 12.95, 1.85, 2.75, 3.65, 4.55, 5.45, 6.35, 7.25, 8.15, 9.05, 9.95, 10.85, 11.75, 12.65, 1.65, 2.55, 3.45, 4.35, 5.25, 6.15, 7.05, 7.95, 8.85, 9.75, 10.65, 11.55, 12.45, 1.35, 2.25, 3.15, 4.05, 4.95, 5.85, 6.75, 7.65, 8.55, 9.45, 10.35, 11.25, 12.15, 1.05, 1.95, 2.85, 3.75, 4.65, 5.55, 6.45, 7.35, 8.25, 9.15, 10.05, 10.95, 11.85, 12.75, 1.55, 2

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Arts

Lifting the curtain on Soviet theatre

The last foreign theatre delegation to pass through Moscow were the Italians, who took 75 directors, designers, critics and fans on a fortnight's grand tour last Easter: ours was a somewhat smaller group. There were three of us: Trevor Nunn, director of the Royal Shakespeare Company, Francesca Annis, who has just reached the end of two Stratford years as Juliet and Cressida, and myself. We were in the Soviet Union for the first 10 days of this month at the invitation of the Great Britain-USSR Association who, like the British Council, are interested in the possibilities of a major London-Moscow theatre exchange during the next few months.

Considering the identity of two thirds of our delegation, the association had also presumably decided that if any theatre company from here is to visit Russia in the next couple of years it should be the RSC, a decision I find it hard to quarrel with given the current artistic strength of the company and the present over-

all state of the National and its finances.

Our delegation was theoretically informal (a consideration which did not prevent frequent gatherings with Soviet theatre officials, all of whom expected lengthy formal speeches followed by question-and-answer sessions) and we had no brief to promote them anything: clearly, however, the Russians are expecting us to send them something in the very near future and equally clearly they would like to pay a return visit. The problems at this end are considerable: the machinery of the World Theatre seasons no longer exists, the economics of sending a company to Moscow and keeping its theatres full at horrendous and, each apart, there are many who would argue that to engage in any kind of cultural exchange at this time amounts to aiding and abetting a still-repressive regime.

In equally if not more repressive times we have, however, sent over the Redgrave *Hamlet*, the Gielgud *Ages of Man*, the Scofield *Lear*, the Olivier *Othello* and a courageous Prospect tour. Moreover,

even those observers in Moscow who take the most despairing view of the likelihood of a forthcoming dissident show trial agree with Sakharov that the door from the West has to be kept open whatever the moral cost.

Theoretically, it is clear that there is still great interest in the British: detailed questions about Edward Bond, Arnold Wesker and Peter Brook indicated a far greater knowledge of our theatre than most of us could claim in reverse, and from these Russians who have recently been able to travel to London, word has spread through Moscow and Leningrad of Robert Bolt's *State of Revolution* and Alan Bennett's *The Old Country*, both of course plays which arouse more than a little local Soviet interest.

Admittedly we were forever talking to theatre addicts and theatre experts: ask an average Russian in the street (if you can find one, it being already nearly 15 below freezing) what he'd most like to see from here and the answer will quite possibly be *Jesus Christ Superstar*, about which there seems an

abnormal amount of curiosity unless you assume that it is as close as they now want to get towards organized religion. A Russian version has already been staged, and both *My Fair Lady* and *West Side Story* turn up regularly in repertoires as, more seriously, do translations of Osborne, Wesker, Delaney and Arthur Miller.

Predictably, perhaps, there's not yet much sign of Stoppard, nor do they seem to have got around to Shaffer or much of Pinter: yet there's no doubt that the fervency with which they approach plays both new and old, musical and non-musical, far exceeds anything I have ever seen elsewhere in the world. Night after night, in the freezing cold outside theatres, we were stopped by people waiting around on the off-chance of a spare ticket; queues were forming for a Saturday morning matinee of *Henry IV* in Leningrad, and every show in town seemed to be playing to standing room only, partly because each show plays only two or three nights a month as part of crowded permanent-company which have been playing in repertoires.

Tickets are often a reward, either for standing in overnight queues or for belonging to the right factory group or simply for increased productivity: thus the theatre is regarded with a kind of holy awe by most of its audiences, and productions which have been playing in repertoire for maybe five or even 10 years and are clearly now in need of recasting and rethinking still get capacity houses and prolonged applause—though not, admittedly, as long as that granted to Plisetskaya's *Carmen* ballet at the Bolshoi, which must be the only production on record where the curtain calls last very nearly as long as the dancing.

Our delegation was seldom of one mind about any of the productions we saw, and these are my rather than our views: we did agree, however, on certain basic impressions, one of which was that the system of no theatrical unemployment can lead to a hardening of the arteries in some companies while allowing others to explore their horizons over five or 10-year programmes. In each case the difference was made

for better or worse by the director of the company, and Trevor Nunn never ceased explaining to his incredulous counterparts that a British theatre director thinks himself lucky if he can get an actor to sign on for two years: there, 20 or 30 is not uncommon.

In the very limited time available, all we saw of the Moscow Art Theatre was an *Ivanov* that, despite the presence of the legendary Smolukovsky in the title role, seemed to me dead beyond recall: Stanislavsky himself, we were told, gave up going to that theatre in the last seven years of his life, but it is only fair to add that there may well be livelier productions now in the repertoire which deserve an invitation. Also in Moscow, the Red Army Theatre has a play called *Holy of Holies* which I believe should be seen not only for the central performances of Fatsukov and Ledogorov, but also for the proof that limited criticism of the regime (in this case its passion for heartless urbanization) is now permissible provided you have an upbeat ending.

In Riga, a Latvian town the size of Sheffield where there are eight major repertory theatres and an opera house, they have a stunningly good *Brand* played out on one of the most amazing revolving stages I have ever seen, and in Leningrad while we were there the Anatoly Efros production of *Don Juan* brought two massive good performances from Michael Kazakov and Leo Durov: next year, all being well, they'll be at the Edinburgh Festival though not, alas, with this production.

At the Gorky in Leningrad, Tolstoy's *Henry IV* (a three-hour condensed version of Parts I and II highlighting Falstaff and Hotspur, the latter being played by a man in his middle fifties but mesmerizing for all that) is now in its tenth season and showing signs of wear and tear, but there again the company have brought much else into the repertoire since their last visit to London a decade ago and clearly deserve another invitation.

So what should we be sending them? If a company were going tomorrow, I would lobby for an RSC troble of the

McKellen *Macbeth* and *Will O'as*, if Howard could be persuaded to return to that cast, along, if possible, with their musical *Comedy of Errors*. But as it may already be too late to get a tour going in 1978, such are the planning complexities, it is anyone's guess what the RSC will have on offer 18 months hence.

A 1979 visit now seems the most likely, if only because 1980 is the Moscow Olympics and nobody wants to risk leaving it as late as 81. The request will certainly be for a major Shakespeare, but there is room for a modern production as well. In the best of all possible worlds it could perhaps be argued that the modern play should be Tom Stoppard's *Every Good Boy Deserves Favour*, though that is not a suggestion I make in any expectation of realization whatsoever. Still, as we endlessly tried to remind the infinitely welcoming, infinitely hospitable, infinitely official groups we met along the way, the play's the thing.

Sheridan Morley

Gardening

Rooting around in the cellar

At this season of good will may we think, for a moment, of Gardeners' Sunday the organization that coordinates the opening of private gardens on behalf of the two gardeners' charities, the Gardeners' Royal Benevolent Society and the Royal Gardeners' Orphan Fund.

This year the garden openings again brought a welcome net sum for the charities: it will be nearly £15,000—I remember only a few years ago when the organizers wondered if they would live to see the day when the figure of £10,000 could be raised.

But the scheme relies on the ability and willingness of the owners of gardens to open them to the public. Every year inevitably some gardens are lost to the scheme—they may have been sold for building, the owners can no longer afford the time or labour to keep them up properly, or car parking facilities are no longer available.

There are many valid reasons why a garden owner can no longer support the scheme. So it is to be hoped that new gardens will be opened every year.

Last year 37 new gardens were open, for the first time keeping the total at well over 300 gardens. This year so far 31 new garden owners have offered to help and hopefully the new acquisitions will more than compensate for the withdrawals. But the Gardeners' Sunday scheme would greatly welcome more gardens. A garden to interest visitors does not have to be vast. Mrs Sheila Macqueen the celebrated flower arranger and four friends, all within about a mile of each other in Hertfordshire opened their gardens this year and contributed £1,700 to the fund. They will again be opening their gardens next year on July 9.

If you would like to open your garden for these two very worthy charities next year, please write at once, before Christmas so that details can be included in the booklet published early in the year. The address to write to is Gardeners' Sunday, White Witches, Claygate Road, Dorking, Surrey.

In the past I have several

times recommended the new Dutch self-folding chicory varieties—those which will naturally make a good fat chicon without being covered with six inches of sand or soil. Chicory roots from plants sown last May, lifted in October or November, are now yielding welcome chiccons in boxes of peat in the cupboard under the stairs, a cellar, or under a bench in a warm greenhouse.

Unfortunately the firm that was selling the seed of these chicory varieties no longer stocks them. But the variety Normato, which I forced quite happily from November until the spring, is now available from W. J. Unwin Ltd, Histon, Cambridge, price 25p a packet, postage, presumably 7 or 9p extra.

This is the time of year when any flowers in the garden are so welcome. For three or four weeks we have been able to pick a few blooms of *Iris unguicularis* (f. *stylata*) from a sheltered bed nestling against the south-facing wall of the house.

Now too the pink flowers of *Viburnum farreri*, more commonly known as *F. fragrans*, are bravely carrying on a show. It began in early November and will no doubt go on until March. It does not last all that long in water but as it benefits from light pruning, there is no reason why we should not help ourselves to a succession of flowering twigs in the winter and early spring.

The autumn cherry, *Prunus subhirtella autumnalis* too has been flowering since October. The flowers are rather singed by frosts but new blossoms appear quite quickly and keep the tree attractive. The bluish pink form "Rosea" is certainly, to me, more attractive than the white flowered variety and I wonder why it has never received more than the award of merit from the Royal Horticultural Society whereas its white counterpart has had the much more important award of garden merit and the top accolade, the first class certificate, which of course it richly deserves.

The Royal National Rose Society has just issued the results of its 1977 trial of new roses. The President's international trophy and a gold

medal were awarded to "Silver Jubilee", a coppery salmon pink hybrid tea rose. Very vigorous, bushy, slightly fragrant with a full complement of 30-40 petals.

It has a curious parentage in which such famous varieties as "Parkdirektor Riggers", "Piccadilly", "Highlight", "Colour Wonder" and "Mirage" all played a part. It was raised by Mr Alec Cocker of Aberdeen, who died last month without knowing that for the second time in seven years he had won this coveted award. His first success was in 1970 with that splendid hybrid tea variety "Alec's Red".

The Rose of Torridge Silver for the best new variety raised by an amateur was awarded to "Butterfly Wings", a shrub rose with dainty ivory-white flowers tipped with carmine. It was raised by Mr David Gobbie of Balham in London, who with very limited facilities has been breeding new roses for many years.

A certificate of merit was awarded to a floribunda rose as yet unnamed, pink with a white eye from Sam McGredy Roses International.

Trial ground certificates were awarded to no fewer than 10 new roses. Those which have already been named are "English Miss", a floribunda, silver-pink edged deep pink from Canis of Colchester Ltd; "Memmo" floribunda, cerise pink with a carmine reverse; "Lark" HT, pale yellow edged orange pink from Dickson Nurseries Ltd, Northern Ireland; "Judy Garland", floribunda deep yellow, edged orange; "Margaret Merril" floribunda—hybrid tea type, white, very fragrant; "Marjorie Fair", a shrub rose, carmine with a silver eye, this variety also won the first prize in the International Rose Trials in Denmark, and "Mrs Walter Burns", a dwarf floribunda carmine edged silver with 106 small petals, all raised by R. Harkness and Co Ltd; "Warrior", floribunda scarlet raised by E. B. Le Grice Ltd; "Moana", a miniature rose deep coral pink, and "Macgem" (subject to naming) from Sam McGredy International, New Zealand.

Roy Hay



Travel

Move for the disabled

Some time ago I was taken gently to task by the representative of a worthy charitable organization who made the mistake (as so many do) of assuming that I am some kind of commercial extension to the travel industry.

He wanted to know why that industry, and particularly the tour companies, did not do more for the disabled. He felt, rightly, that they are just as entitled—maybe more entitled—to a holiday and a refreshing change from the routine of their lives, but that the tour operators did not respond to their special needs.

Having long studied the subject of holidays for the disabled, I was able to give him some information and learnt only last week that acting upon it, he has made some specific holiday arrangements for his "clients" in 1978. I also learnt last week that the mobility allowance paid to the disabled is to be raised from next July. As this allowance is being increasingly used for the purchase of holidays, I thought a few words on the subject would not come amiss.

The first thing to remember—and the point so many organizations overlook—is that tour companies are in business to make money. (Tour companies themselves have in the past seemed to overlook that very point, but that is another story. They are unlikely therefore to set aside all commercial considerations, as many charitable organizations would wish them to do.)

"We can make special arrangements for disabled holidaymakers, and are pleased to do so," I was told by one tour company. "But the reason we do not take many disabled people is that the vast majority cannot afford our holidays, especially in the high season."

Such a comment would never, of course, be made "on the record" but it does acknowledge that the greatest handicap is a financial one. Or, rather, it has been.

Research carried out by the Spastics Society has shown that the most popular holiday in its 1977 programme was the most expensive—a week to an hotel in Rome for £140. The same holiday is included in the society's 1978 programme, at

£149, and looks like being the best seller again.

Mr Bill Hargreaves, who is head of the society's recreational services department, reckons that for disabled holidaymakers money is no longer the sole criterion. The mobility allowances are being used and as the allowance is to go up to £10 a week next July, more money will be available for such purchases.

I met Mr Hargreaves at the recent launch of Pickfords programme of overseas holidays for the disabled—a winner for one and two week deals to the Hotel Imperial at Siemsa in Malta and the hotels Los Mirlos and Los Tordos at Magaluf, Mallorca.

At the moment the cost of two weeks to Malta is £297 and two weeks to Magaluf is £151.90, with the programme running through to the end of March. There are plans for another series in winter 1978/79 and Pickfords also offer an information and advice service to potential organizers.

I certainly welcome the Pickfords initiative in offering special arrangements. When you consider that there are over 3,000,000 disabled people in Britain, such a move is long overdue.

As for the Spastics Society's efforts, I know that a holiday to Benidorm is being planned in February (as a result of an approach from Thomson Holidays) a trip to Holland in April and one to Calles on the Costa Brava.

As well as the week in Rome I mentioned, there are holidays in Britain and the programme ends with trips to Spain, Majorca and Oxford. You may obtain complete details from the Spastics Society at 12 Park Crescent, London, W1N 4EQ, although the holiday programme is a modest one and likely to be fully subscribed. However, I imagine that any volume of inquiries from the disabled—would encourage the society to expand its useful work.

What particularly bowled me over, incidentally, was Mr Hargreaves's casual mention of the winter sports holiday that was organized for a group of members last March. Most of

them tackled the ski slopes of San Valentino in Italy and so successful was the week that another is planned for March, 1978, to Caspoggio.

As an example of overcoming the barriers of disability, that holiday takes some bearing, though Mr Brian Stead of Northampton broke those barriers early this year. A victim of multiple sclerosis, he took time off from his job with the local electricity board and travelled to Jamaica, Mexico, Fiji and New Zealand, accompanied by his elderly father. He is presently writing a book about the journey.

The many societies which have been formed to assist people suffering from particular disabilities—such as the Spastics Society, the British Epilepsy Association, the British Fetus Fellowship—are able to advise about holidays at home and abroad, and sometimes even organize such holidays. An approach to such a society is usually the best first step.

I would also advise—as I have in the past—the purchase of *Holidays for the Physically Handicapped*, the 1978 edition of which should be published at the end of this month. It costs 75p from W. H. Smith or other large book stores and is produced by the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation at 25 Mortimer Street, London W1N 8AB.

Another useful publication, and a free one, is the pamphlet issued by the Airline Users' Committee (Space House 43-59, Kingsway, London WC2E 8TE), *Care in the Air* which gives advice for disabled passengers. It would certainly have helped the reader from Sheffield who was told on a charter flight to Spain that disabled people were "not allowed by law" to occupy the seats with extra leg room near the exits.

The pamphlet clearly advises those with special needs to tell the airline in advance if they want a seat in a particular position "such as one on the aisle, near the toilets or with extra leg room". A travel agent's explanation to the Sheffield reader that the advice only applied to scheduled service flights is as fatuous as it is feeble.

If you suffer from any disability, or if you are in a position to organize holidays for the disabled, I trust your arrangements for 1978 will progress with no great problems. If I can help by putting you in touch with suitable organizations, then I shall be pleased to do so.

John Carter

Callela on the Costa Brava: holiday plan by the Spastics Society



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Mountaineering is not a race and that is official



An attractive fact about mountaineering is that the sport is not in the normal sense competitive. It is unnecessary for someone to win and everyone else to lose, neither are the participants watched by a crowd of critical voyeurs. Be he ever so dim of eye or flat of foot, a man can pelt the hills without having his nose rubbed in failure or being accused of offending a rule book.

He may not be able to bat a straight ball or enjoy having his ears flattened in a scum, but he can crouch from the wind behind a boulder and eat his sandwiches while the clouds boil at his feet, the sun slants in golden pillars around him and his mate makes a brew.

The laws of climbing owe nothing to formal organization which is why there will be general relief felt at the recent decision of the International Union of Alpine Associations (UIAA) in Mexico to steer away from competitive mountaineering. Ostensibly it was a decision to remove the UIAA's support for the Trofeo Mezzalama, a competition organized by the Italian Alpine Club under the patronage of the International Union, and billed as the world ski mountaineering championship.

The decision by 10 votes to two to withdraw support was reached for two reasons; that it would open the door to formal competition within the sport of mountaineering, and because the Russians were persuaded to see the event as a killing by the capitalist entrepreneurs of Aosta — the ski resort where the competition takes place.

Leading mountaineers believe it would be only a short step from ski-mountaineering contests to the spread of "speed climbing" events which have taken place and are deeply offensive to purist mountaineers and to those who feel less than purely about the sport.

Some wry dreamers have been trying to visualize what such a championship would be like, how the latter day gladiators would perform. There would have to be a scrubbed stretch of cliff, roped off and neatly dusted down. A grandstand would be erected overlooking the scene together with scaffolding to allow the television cameras to record every grunt and sweat bead issuing from the competitors. No one else would be allowed to climb there on that day; to attempt to do so would be worse than sailing across the Solent as the starting gun for the Admiral's Cup was fired.

Perhaps there would be a Come Climbing slot in Saturday afternoon viewing with an opening zoom shot of the first competitor, He Helmut Fuchs, of Bavaria (the West Germans are said to be especially

keen on giving the competition a chance) striding before the judges to a ripple of applause. The commentator might begin: "And here is Helmut, a handsome stuffer from Munich who through dedicated exercise has a power to weight ratio of 50:1 and 28 inch wrists. He is very smartly turned out in our size Lederhosen with matching leather shoes. Helmut sewed all the buttons on his trousers himself, and his most fetching assembly is topped by an alpine hat moulded in concrete with an eagle's feather and steel chain strap."

Helmut would present himself as the cliff foot for discreet inspection, rather like a boxer opening his gloves to disclose any hidden ingots. The climbing equivalent might be boot tips dipped in glut or helium filling, those voluminous leather knickerbockers to give a more graceful lift.

A bell would ring and a huge clock begin to tick off the seconds. Helmut, launched himself at the cliff, climbing to a rising crescendo of Wagner played by an imported brass band. From ruggedity to ruggedity he would move with dazzling precision and simian rhythm, his appearance hardly marred by the large number on his back and the discreet advertisement for patent chest expanders.

At the top he would snap to attention whilst a row of elderly mountaineering councillors held up large cardboard signs giving points for style, deportment and dress.

How far from the truth would this be? The international committee of the British Mountaineering Council, the representative body of the sport in this country, have decided that speed climbing is against the interests of the sport. Mr Michael Westmacott, the chairman, explained: "We thought it would lead to more regimentation and the type of interest you get in sports which are strongly competitive. This would not be welcome."

The nations which most favour competitive climbing are the Soviet Union and her satellites who have the ulterior motive in developing this arm of mountaineering to qualify for government aid—particularly if it was to become an Olympic event. There is no risk, as there is in proper climbing, since fixed ropes are used. If in the middle of a stylish ascent a climber falls, he will bruise no more than his ego. So for the moment at least, climbing exhibitions must keep their competitive tendencies to themselves or exert their arms among consenting friends. Apart from showing off, the general judgment is that moving at high speed up precipices encourages bad habits.

Ronald Faux

EEC elections: the danger of extremism that was pipped at the post

George Hutchinson

As a steady and informed supporter of the EEC, Mrs Thatcher is becoming, rather tired of the suggestion that, because her speeches tend to emphasize our own national interests, she falls short of being a true "European". The reputation is not uncommon among the "Eurofanatics" both here and abroad, and one can understand her irritation.

It is of course correct to say that Mrs Thatcher has not adopted "Europe first" as her motto. Her principal and recurring theme, and the philosophy underlying them, are essentially "British" or "national" or "patriotic". Although in no sense narrow, for there is nothing shallow about them, they encompass the recognition—at once realistic and romantic—that while Britain may have lessons to learn from other members of the European Community we are not, as a nation, altogether unversed in the arts and conventions of democracy and social stability.

One of these is the "first past the post" system of elections, which Mr Heath would prefer to abandon in returning members to the European Parliament while Mrs Thatcher (and all but two of the Shadow Cabinet) would rather retain it.

By Tuesday's vote in the House of Commons, the "traditionalists" have had their way,

and the first elections to the European Assembly will not be conducted under any of the various forms of proportional representation, as Mr Callaghan—a late convert, if that is the word—was advocating.

However disappointing to Mr David Steel and his little band of Liberals, the decision must relieve at least one anxiety: namely the fear, that if PR were allowed for the European elections we would be drawn closer to the Westminster tradition at Westminster.

Misgivings about the reputed merits of proportional representation have sharply increased with the growth of the National Front. More and more, one hears the comment that so far from being a guarantor of moderation, PR would open the gates to extremism by admitting a most unwelcome element to the House of Commons. This would no doubt be true if the Front were to maintain its existing support or to become even stronger—and there is no evidence of decline, rather the contrary.

Mrs Thatcher perceives the danger. More fundamentally, she is not temperamentally inclined to tamper with established institutions or procedures that have stood the test of time. In this, I believe, she is much in tune with national sentiment—much more so than

Mr Heath, who seems increasingly divorced, or estranged, from his fellow countrymen.

As for Mr Steel, one can discern no future comfort in his leadership of the Liberal Party. His alliance with Mr Callaghan has gained nothing for the Liberals except the extension of the present Parliament. Perhaps he would be happier with Labour, to whose interests he has proved so accommodating.

Twenty years ago, Mr E. E. Harris was the director of the Liberal Party. Speaking on September 18, 1957, he had this to say: "If, in the process of getting to Liberalism, we put in a socialist government, we cannot help that. That is something you must suffer on the road."

David Steel was 19 at the time. During the interval he seems to have absorbed something of Mr Harris's outlook.

In the week of Lady Spencer-Churchill's death, it is perhaps fitting to reproduce a letter written to her by her husband on July 17, 1915 as he prepared for service on the Western Front. He put it in an envelope marked "To be sent to Mrs Churchill in the event of my death."

"Darling, Cox holds about £1000 worth of securities of mine (chiefly Witbank Collieries); Jack has in his name about

£1000 worth of Pretoria Cement Shares & Cassel has American Stocks of mine which exceed in value my loans from him by about £1000. I believe these will be found sufficient to pay my debts & overdrafts. Most of the bills were paid last year. Randolph Payne & Lumley are the only two large ones.

The insurance policies are all kept up & every contingency is covered. You will receive £10,000 and £300 a year in addition until you succeed my mother. The £10,000 can either be used to provide interest i.e. about £450 a year or even to purchase an annuity against my mother's life, which would yield a much larger income at the expense of the capital. Of course it will be much better to keep the £10,000 and live on the interest than to spend it on the chance of my mother living a long time. But you must judge.

I am anxious that you should get hold of all my papers, especially those who refer to my Admiralty administration. I have appointed you my sole literary executor. Masteron Smith will help you to secure all that is necessary for a complete record. There is no hurry; but some day I shall like the truth to be known. Randolph will carry on the lamp. Do not grieve for me too much. I am a spirit confident of my rights.

Death is only an incident, & not the most important which happens to us in this state of being. On the whole, especially since I met you my darling one I have been happy, & you have taught me how noble a woman's heart can be. If there is anywhere else I shall be in the look out for you. Meanwhile look forward, feel free, rejoice in life, cherish the children, guard my memory. God bless you.

Good bye W. This is one of the innumerable letters to be found in the companion volumes to Dr Martin Gilbert's magnificent *Life of Sir Winston*, and is surely among the most touching of them all.

Now that both are so heavily engaged in authorship (of however slight a character), Mr Heath and Sir Harold Wilson might at last address themselves to a cause which neither did anything to assist while in office. As men of letters, they may perhaps feel moved to support the campaign for a Public Lending Right which would allow writers a modest financial return when their books are borrowed from libraries.

Authors of greater accomplishment should not be too proud to enlist their influence. Indifferent their writings may

Why the pinstripe brigade are 'mucking in' down on the farm

If the chrysanthemums and clematis in your back garden have already been replaced with rows of cabbages, carrots and cauliflowers, you probably possess all the potential necessary for becoming a successful WWOOFer.

Forget the canine connotations. WWOOF simply stands for Working Weekends on Organic Farms—an organization with a strong appeal for all those devotees of BBC television's series *The Good Life*. People who share with the fictional Tom and Barbara Good a desire for complete self-sufficiency and whose philosophy for living lies within the pages of E. F. Schumacher's *Small is Beautiful*.

Over half of WWOOF's 700 members live in London and regularly swap city suits and briefcases for jeans, wellington boots and a hoe. For two days they'll tackle a variety of jobs—from chopping down trees and mending fences to the more exotic art of making compost or feeding the pigs, yet they won't be paid a penny.

For most the attraction is the countryside itself—the conviction that inside every urban man a rural one waits to escape and "muck in". When Sue Coppard started WWOOF in 1971 she found people so desperate to get away from the city and on to a farm that they arrived unannounced on her doorstep—begging for rural addresses.

Today WWOOF is more organized. Members are sent a regular newsletter telling them which farms need help on which particular weekend. The south east is naturally very popular, and often oversubscribed, so here it's a case of first come, first served.

Many WWOOFers are young couples whose ultimate ambition is to own their own organic farm or smallholding. Organic farming simply means growing all the produce without the use of chemical fertilizers or weedkillers. It's a method that requires a lot of hard manual labour—a major reason why farmers welcome WWOOFers.

Owning a small farm is a dream for John and Sue Hesser who live in North London. John, a computer programmer, and Sue, who illustrates archaeological finds, cultivate a tiny back garden where cabbages and flowers share the limited space. Sue would like a goat to provide milk for the soft cheeses and yogurts she makes but knows it's not feasible, and probably illegal, in such confined urban space. She and John have been WWOOFing for several months and say they would go, even if they only had a window box to cultivate.

In about three years' time their dream may become reality. Reality would probably be a cottage, heavily dilapidated, with a large garden ripe for cultivation. It would also probably be somewhere in East Anglia for anything similar in the south-east would be an economic nightmare. Prices in the rural areas are prohibitive—you could easily pay £30,000 for a cottage and two acres of land.

Ann and John Springer of Hounslow, have accepted that the likelihood of their owning a farm will remain a fantasy, and ideally would like to settle as tenants on a few acres of land. The couple go WWOOFing to learn more about animal husbandry and want that the way to own a farm is to rent it. Since then they have



WWOOFers Charlotte Barber and Christopher Trussell: "Better than we expected."

who fancy a cheap country weekend contemplating nature from under the boughs of the spreading chestnut tree. Surroundings are often very beautiful. There are farms and smallholdings amongst the rugged scenery of Scotland and North Wales, and others tucked away in the lush countryside of Devon, Wiltshire and Sussex.

In one such idyllic spot, near the Ashdown Forest in Sussex, Carol and Colin Cook have a 300-year-old cottage and 10 acres on which they keep sheep, pigs, two cows, hens and geese and grow every conceivable variety of vegetable. They moved there two years ago when the cottage was derelict. Since then they have

rebuilt it, put in a swimming pool and, with the aid of WWOOFers, are now reclaiming four acres of woodland and constructing a land drainage scheme.

"We couldn't have achieved all this in so short a time without the WWOOFers," says Colin Cook, "yet we don't have them here merely to work for us. We do realize how fortunate we are living as we do, and we like to share our life-style with others. Many WWOOFers find it a great way to mentally unwind."

A weekend with the Cook family was the first experience of WWOOFing for Charlotte Barber and Christopher Trussell, who live near Holloway.

Both agreed that their initial weekend was far better than anything they had expected—even the unexpected such as milking a cow, and then making butter and cheese from the milk.

Spinning is one craft Carol Cook could not teach Charlotte. She has only just acquired a spinning wheel and intends to spend the winter months spinning the wool from their own sheep. What no one denies that WWOOFers are expected to work hard for their supper, many farms offer extra bonuses like learning the skills of spinning and weaving. Or you could try dry-stone walling in the Wye Valley, winemaking in North Wales, making seaweed compost in

Scotland, beekeeping in Leicestershire, and maintaining old buildings by the medieval method of clay walling in Suffolk.

WWOOF philosophy is now spreading internationally. You can go WWOOFing in New Zealand and soon in Denmark, Germany, Australia and California. For those who are looking for new ground to break, in every sense, new WWOOFers are always welcome, especially in the north of England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

Inquiries, with s.a.e., to: Don Pynchus, 19 Bradford Road, Lewes, Sussex BN7 1RB.

Vanora Leigh

In the Restaurant
"Snow on toast?"
"Two snows on toast."
"No snow on toast."
Christopher Logue

Getting Europeans to drink more pintas



Could the adoption by other EEC countries of British-type drinking pinta campaigns substantially boost milk consumption in the Community and thereby help to reduce the embarrassing "moo-moo" of surplus butter and skimmed milk powder?

The question was posed at a recent meeting of EEC agricultural ministers by Mr Gavin Strang, Parliamentary Secretary at the Ministry of Agriculture, who also made the point that the per capita consumption of liquid milk in Britain was twice as high as in most other member states.

The suggestion struck a sympathetic response from Mr Finn Olav Gundelach, the EEC Commissioner for Agriculture, who apparently believes there is a significant untapped market for liquid milk in the EEC which the right kind of advertising could begin to win back from soft drinks manufacturers.

It is in fact intended that some 20 per cent of the £120m which the commission expects to collect in receipts next year through the levying of a special "co-responsibility" tax on milk producers should be used to finance promotion, advertising and market research.

The tax is levied on all milk delivered to the dairies at a rate of 1.5 per cent of a target price, though small Italian producers, hill regions and other disadvantaged areas are exempt. The idea is that dairy farmers should share some of the financial responsibility of disposing of the surpluses they create.

It is true that the British and the Irish spend much more than any of their partners on advertising, and also drink more milk. The Irish get through no less than

6.5 pints a head every week, and the British 4.7. Weekly per capita consumption in other member states is as follows: Denmark 3.9 pints; Holland 3.1; Luxembourg 2.8; France 2.5; West Germany 2.5; Italy 2.4; Belgium 2.3.

On the face of it this would seem to suggest a link between advertising and higher consumption, except that the Irish drink 38 per cent more than the British on a per capita basis, but spend only half as much on promotion.

In fact, significantly lower prices and a distribution system which enables fresh milk to be delivered to the doorstep, of virtually every house in the land within 48 hours appear to be the main reasons for the relatively higher British and Irish consumption rates.

The point also needs to be made that when butter, cheese,

cream and yoghurt are also taken into account, the overall consumption of milk products is not so very different from one country to another. The British and Irish, for example, though substantial butter eaters, eat much less cheese than anyone else in the community.

Despite Mr Gundelach's enthusiasm, most officials in the Commission are doubtful that costly promotion campaigns would do much to change deep-rooted dietary habits, changing, say, the British into cheese-eaters and the French into milk drinkers. Nor, they argue, would it necessarily be desirable.

As one official put it: "You might be able to persuade the French to drink more milk, but only by getting them to drink less wine, which is also in surplus. The French could

argue that the Community as a whole would be better off if the British drank more wine, less milk and ate more cheese."

The reality remains that consumption of both liquid milk and other milk products in the EEC is either static or falling, while production is sharply increasing. This is because dairy farmers, though declining in numbers, are becoming more efficient at keeping more cows on a given acreage and producing more milk from them, and are encouraged to do so by the high prices. In recent years the EEC has produced 10 per cent more milk than it needs.

The only real answer is to restrict dairy farmers to very small price increases indeed for some years ahead. But the political obstacles are formidable. Many experts would go further and argue that the

whole system of intervention-buying needs to be curbed, so that dairy farmers would enjoy a guaranteed price only up to a certain level of production, and would have to sell the balance at whatever price the market was prepared to pay.

But intervention is a sacred cow which is still a long way off from the slaughter house. In the meantime, the Commission is making an effort to dispose of more surplus milk within the Community than in the past by subsidizing cheaper consumer prices, making cheap butter available to ice-cream manufacturers, enlarging school milk programmes, and the like. But these are little more than palliatives.

In a new venture this year, the Commission authorized member states to release some 72,000 tonnes of "Christmas butter" from intervention stocks and to put it on the market at 18p a lb less than normal prices, the cost of the subsidy being met out of the EEC budget.

British shoppers are not benefiting from the scheme because butter in Britain enjoys a permanent, wholly EEC-financed consumer subsidy anyway. The Christmas bonus seems to have run into trouble in Ireland, where there are reports of distribution confusion and tales of unscrupulous shopkeepers re-wrapping supplies and selling the stuff at normal prices.

Subsidizing cut-price exports of EEC butter is the more traditional, and actually more economic method of disposing of surpluses. But it is felt in some quarters to be socially and politically less acceptable, especially when the beneficiaries are Russians.

Michael Hornsby

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ARGENTINA'S CYCLE OF VIOLENCE

The recent abduction of two French nuns in Argentina, and the representations made by the French Embassy in Buenos Aires, are one more reminder that the cycle of violence continues in that country. The assumption is that, like thousands of other people, the nuns were taken off by people acting under the auspices of the military Government. It is also likely that unless action is taken to locate them quickly, they will join the long list of those who have disappeared without trace over the past two years. The incident can only serve to tarnish the reputation of the Argentine Government still further, and set back its attempts to obtain greater international sympathy for its predicament.

The fact of this matter is that military repression has been as harsh in Argentina as in any other Latin American country, and that the justification for the need to counter the subversion of terrorist groups—does not excuse the excesses that have been committed.

There is no question that the armed forces faced an appalling situation when they took power in March, 1976, with an economy on the brink of collapse and terrorist groups that were well organised and well financed and ruthless. It is also true that these groups are still active today, though on a reduced scale. There are still incidents in which bombs are exploded, or the executives of private companies are attacked by gunmen. But the armed forces are now reaping the fruits of a deliberately chosen policy which involved putting themselves on a level

with the terrorists and using terrorist methods against them, regardless of the cost to innocent people caught up in the struggle. This policy has involved setting up small counter-terrorist groups in the civilian population, instructed to act with a certain autonomy. It has also involved a ruthless approach to the collection of intelligence, in which large numbers of people have been taken off for questioning, often for no better reason than that their names may have appeared in someone else's address book. Many of these people will have had little information that can have been of use to their questioners, but the procedure was felt to be justified for whatever it produced. Most serious of all, the intelligence gathering operation has been conducted outside the law, with the information being given to relations on what had happened, and blank statements of ignorance by officials who were approached by them.

The aim of the military authorities was to have a ruthless, but ultimately efficient, method of eliminating terrorists, by removing not only them but any possible sympathizers from circulation. This was a war, they considered, and in war it is not possible to be too scrupulous about methods. The trouble was that in the event the campaign became more like a civil war than a war, and that, as in all civil wars, the situation got out of hand. It has proved difficult to control the various groups which had been given their marching orders, especially as they had been told they need not

worry about the law. The result has been abduction by such groups of personal enemies of people regarded as too leftist, and even of relatives who are too persistent in asking questions about those who have disappeared.

There can be little doubt that there are members of the Argentine military Government who deplore such incidents as the abduction of the two French nuns. They take some pride in the other achievements since they took power—in the fact that they have pulled the country out of the worst of its economic crisis, and that businessmen, diplomats and others no longer have to go in constant fear of kidnapping or murder. President Videla has himself undertaken to try to curb the excesses, and he has been a certain reduction in the number of disappearances. But his power is limited by disagreements among the various parts of the armed forces, where there are many who believe that a hard line should be continued, and others who oppose him in a simple, contest for power.

Argentina is a large and complex country which has been in a state of turbulence for many years. The question now is whether it will be able to heal the wounds that have been inflicted in the virtual civil war of the last few years. If it can, it can take advantage of its enormous economic potential and resume the growth which it should have been enjoying all this time. But to do that, it will have to stop the cycle of violence and return to legality.

NO RISE SINCE 1972: AND NOW 5 PER CENT

Mr Callaghan's decision on pay increases for nationalized industries is the culmination of bungling and ineptitude of the first order. Its timing—24 hours before the Christmas holidays—has no prior consultation with or warning to those concerned—is scandalous.

In 1974, the independent review body on top salaries, chaired by Lord Boyle of Handsworth, recommended substantial increases for state industry board members and for senior officials in the public service, the armed forces and the judiciary. The Government allowed half the increases recommended for all except the nationalized industry chairmen and board members. The then Prime Minister, Sir Harold Wilson, with his eye on the social contract, postponed a decision on the state industries until such time as he had seen and studied the findings of the Royal Commission on Income Distribution and Wealth.

Sir Harold accepted the review body's findings that the chairmen and board members of nationalized industries were

earning substantially lower salaries than their counterparts in private industry. But, he argued, the social justification for some of the very high incomes paid in private industry would be questionable, whatever the economic circumstances of the country. With the whole country tightening its belt, those who were most highly paid should accept the need for extreme restraint. The royal commission's findings on this matter have come and gone, and nothing has been done, until this week, about the salaries of those who run the nationalized industries. Mr Callaghan has re-stated the Government's belief that these people's salaries are significantly out of line with those of their counterparts elsewhere, but he has chosen, like his predecessor, to take a harsh line, presumably *pour encourager les autres*.

The salary scales of those who head the nationalized industries or sit on their boards as full time members have remained virtually unchanged since 1972. This means that many of them have seen their real income halved in that period. The Government

now proposes that those earning more than £13,000 a year should get a 5 per cent increase and that those below that figure should, on a sliding scale, be allowed up to a maximum of 10 per cent. This formula is an insult to men who are devoting their life to public service. Had Mr Callaghan awarded 10 per cent across the board it might still have seemed harsh—particularly since the Boyle report pre-dated the present series of incomes policies—but it would at least have had the merit of being rough justice applied with some semblance of equity.

The Government may live to regret its decision. First, by this action, it will forfeit the trust of the men and women on whom it relies to run the state sector of industry wisely and efficiently; secondly, it may well lose, through resignations, people whose skills will not be easily replaced; thirdly, it may find that the general public, far from being impressed by the Government's resolve to discriminate against the higher paid, may in fact see it as a shabby example of the politics of envy.

BRITTLE UNITY OF THE GREEK CYPRIOTS

The Eoka-B kidnappers in Cyprus who seized Achilles Kyriakou, the son of the President, on Wednesday threatened to kill him unless their blanket demand for the release of all persons detained on the island for any political reason was met. In effect this meant those members of their organization involved in the short-lived coup of 1974 and such of their underground sympathizers as were also held in detention. Already the threat to kill Lieutenant Kyriakou has been twice postponed and stands to be carried out this evening. As usual with such terrorists the signs of vacillation and weakness are accumulating.

These signs have been dramatically underlined by a plea issued from his prison cell by Mr Nicos Sampson, the eight-day figurehead of the 1974 coup, who has disowned the kidnappers and pleads for the release of the hostage. At the same time an appeal for unity among Greek Cypriots

has been issued by Mr Glafkos Claidou who was the single opponent of President Kyriakou in the election due on February 5 but who has now withdrawn as a gesture of unity. He referred to the hideous crime of the abduction and urged that the already tense atmosphere should not be aggravated. This leaves very little force behind the bluff of the kidnappers since their cause has been visibly weakened by their action and can only be damaged further if they carry out their threat.

Yet the divisions within Cyprus are not likely to be healed while those within Greece itself persist. Ever since the death of President Makarios the Greek Cypriot unity in face of pressure from Athens has become more brittle. As acting President, Mr Kyriakou has held to the view that the best hope for any settlement for Cyprus lay in cooperation with President Carter's chosen medi-

ator Mr Clark Clifford. But hopes in that source for a solution have lately been weakening for lack of American pressure on the Turks strong enough to exact concessions. Coupled with this, last month's Greek elections saw Mr Andreas Papandreu's opposition party make considerable inroads into Mr Karamanlis's majority. This was on a platform rejecting Nato, opting for neutralism and adopting a stronger line against Turkey than Mr Karamanlis was willing to take.

If the continued refusal to meet the kidnappers' demands brings the release of Achilles Kyriakou the Greek Cypriots may justifiably feel strengthened but the Greeks may not be able to give them the right backing when Mr Karamanlis's preference for American mediation is opposed by Mr Papandreu's desire to make Cyprus an international problem, to be exposed in the forum of the United Nations.

Future of nuclear power

From Mr Derrick Streeton
Sir, Referring to Mr D. R. Berridge's letter (December 6) it must be said that compared to reactors of proven design, the effect of sea water contamination in an Advanced Gas-cooled Reactor (AGR) is much more pronounced and far more costly to rectify.

The sheer complexity of the AGR and its distinct disadvantages in terms of access for inspection and maintenance makes one wonder what other problems will arise in future. It is for this reason that the Hunterston incident cannot be regarded in the current decision making on reactor choice.

It is now twelve years since the implementation of the AGR programme and after all this time this reactor remains unproven. The cost to the consumer has been enormous, and it appears that this recent incident will add several millions, if not tens of millions, to the massive burden.

It is really quite staggering to find that the Steam Generating Heat Exchanger (SGHE) and the Diffuser with the AGR, some continue to scrape the barrel to find excuses for not accepting the inevitable—the Pressurized Water Reactor. It would be wholly wrong to spend millions more of the taxpayer's money to "prove" what has been evident for years about the shortcomings of the AGR. It is about time that Parliament de-

manded real accountability. If those in the industry who advocate any particular reactor type are willing to back their cause with something more than their reputation, then we might see some realism applied. Finally, referring again to Mr Berridge's letter, it is mentioned the incident reveals no design weakness. I find this statement difficult to understand for it implies that there is no need to improve upon the Hunterston design. As a result of maloperation in any plant it is used to overcome such problems by design improvements. If this possibility does not exist at Hunterston, one wonders what can be done. Yours faithfully,
DERICK STREETON,
39 Leasway,
Westcliff-on-Sea,
Essex.
December 8.

Bermuda executions

From Mr Michael Stewart, CH, MP for Fulham (Labour)
Sir, In his letter in *The Times* of December 10, Lord Thurlow, the former Governor of the Bahamas, quotes the Naira case in the Bahamas in 1969-70 as evidence that the Secretary of State could have intervened to stop the recent executions in Bermuda.
Rupert Ezra Naira was condemned to death in 1968 for the murder of a prison officer in the Bahamas. He

petitioned the Queen for clemency and, in considering the advice I should tender to Her Majesty, I came to the conclusion that to execute Naira might be a miscarriage of justice. I based this conclusion on the evidence of Naira's mental state which was such that had he been tried in the United Kingdom (prior to the abolition of capital punishment) he would probably not have been condemned to death, on account of diminished responsibility. Initially, the Governor and his local Ministers could not be persuaded to accept that Naira should be reprieved on these grounds. However, the Governor later agreed to grant a reprieve on humanitarian grounds because of the long delay in carrying out the sentence.

Lord Thurlow is thus mistaken in claiming that the Naira case was a breach of Crech Jones. To begin with, the decision to reprieve was technically, taken by the Governor, acting on the advice of his Privy Council of Mercy Committee. But even if it is accepted that the Secretary of State intervened, this was done on the grounds that there was reason to believe that a miscarriage of justice would take place if the execution went ahead. The action was therefore fully in accordance with the Crech Jones doctrine. Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL STEWART,
House of Commons.
December 15.

Activities of the Unification Church

From Mr H. A. C. Masters
Sir, I refer to the extremely biased article in *The Times* (December 12) concerning the Unification Church. Although the article is full of twisted half truths, and is clearly an attack on Christianity and the principles of a free society, I cannot let it pass without correcting a blatant misrepresentation of fact as is reported to have been contained in a letter from Mr Findlayson to the Home Secretary.

Mr Findlayson claims that Mr Jeeves was evicted from his family home because he would not give up his Christian principles. To put the picture straight, Mr Jeeves was employed by me as farm manager until December, 1975, when the ownership of the farm changed hands. The management of the farm, then, was offered Mr Jeeves the opportunity to work in an advisory capacity for a trial period of six months. At the end of the period it was clear that his unfriendly attitude towards the members of the Community made any idea of working together quite impracticable. The arrangement was therefore terminated and he received over £1,200 redundancy payment.

Because of his father's age Mr Jeeves was permitted to remain in the farm house rent free until his father's death a year later. It was quite unreasonable for him to continue to live alone in a large farm house while others, including a married couple with a family who were working on the farm, were obliged to live in cramped conditions. He was therefore offered an alternative smaller house, which my wife and I had at one time considered retiring to ourselves. Mr Jeeves stubbornly refused to move, the Community took the matter to court and the court ruled that he should leave.

Whatsoever Desmond Jeeves's Christian principles may be, he is free to hold them in this free society—like the rest of us—how ever reverent this may be to the tenets of the article.

It is to be hoped that the growing tendency for emerging politicians to knock at religion and the principles of our free society for personal political gain will receive its just deserts.

Yours faithfully,
H. A. C. MASTERS,
Unification Church,
43-44 Lancaster Gate, W2.
December 13.

From the Reverend Eric Inglesby
Sir, The success of the Unification Church is a measure of the failure of the Christian Church, the Church of England in particular. As a priest recently on the staff of Plymouth's City Church I made it my business to meet the "Moon Sect" and found them hospitable, intelligent, thoroughly and guided about Christ and the Bible. Their strength lies in the recognition that young people need the

warm spiritual companionship of small groups.

These days strictly denominational fellowships do not fill the bill, young people have labels, but the Churches, by and large, cannot and will not be so much interdenominational fellowships for fear of forming splinter groups. The authorities of every Church, in fact, are more concerned with saving structures than saving souls, and until there is genuine Christian Unity at the grass roots, perniculous and heretical sects will continue to flourish: the spurious "Unification Church" in particular.

Yours faithfully,
ERIC INGLESBY,
Spring Cottage,
West End Gardens,
Fairford,
Gloucestershire.
December 12.

From Mrs W. P. Baddeley
Sir, I am prompted by your articles on the "Moon Cult" to send you the following excerpts from Mr Moon's speeches to his inner circle as reported in the magazine *Time* in June of last year. These make clear his curious vision of himself and his cult, and should be of interest to parents and others concerned with the welfare of young people.

"Moon on Moon: 'He (God) is living in me, and I am the living God of the world. The whole world is in my hand, and I will conquer and subjugate the world.'"

"Moonism v Christianity: 'God is now throwing Christianity away and is now establishing a new religion, and this new religion is Unification Church. All Christians in the world are destined to be absorbed by our movement. There have been saints, prophets, and many religious leaders... in past times, but now I am doing it. I am more than any of these people and greater than Jesus Christ himself.'"

"Obeying Moon: 'I am a thinker. I am your brain. When you join the effort with me you can do everything in utter obedience to me. Because what I am doing is not done at random but what I am doing is under God's command.'"

"Life with Father Moon: 'You must start over again your new life, from that point denying your past families, friends, neighbours and relatives. You must keep yourselves pure. If you may have to be stained in some way or another it is better for you to kill yourselves than to remain alive. On restoring man from evil sovereignty we must cheat.'"

"Future Plans: 'Once our movement arouses the interest of the people in a nation through the mass media it will spread throughout the world. For that purpose I chose the US. The present UN must be annihilated by our opposition. We must stage for the Communists. We must make a new UN. If the US continues its corruption and we find among

The future of Rhodesia

From Mr D. G. Galvin
Sir, Replying to Commons questions on President Kannda's withdrawal from the Anglo-American plan for Rhodesia, Mr Kannda said: 'There is a choice between continuation of the armed struggle or a negotiated settlement. I believe the Patriotic Front have to be included and it is the duty of the world to understand this statement predicated two false premises on which British policy towards Rhodesia remains obstinately based despite the near collapse of the Anglo-American plan.' The first premise is based on the myth that if a Rhodesian settlement is not achieved then the only other alternative is an intensification of the guerrilla war. Who is going to intensify the war against Rhodesia? The military forces of the so-called front line African nations

are incapable, logistically and operationally, of mounting a threat to the highly efficient Rhodesian Army. The Marxist regimes in Mozambique and Angola, for instance, only maintain a shaky existence by reliance on their internal security forces. In a guerrilla war, the Rhodesian Army confidently keeps the upper hand as the recent mauling of the Mugabe guerrillas has shown.

The validity of the second premise—involvement of the Patriotic Front in a Rhodesian settlement—is equally dubious. The whole point of that settlement is that it should reflect the wishes of the majority in Rhodesia—white and black. It is not as if a Rhodesian settlement installed as the result of one man, one vote elections; to that end the moderate black nationalists—and now it seems Mr Smith—are pledged. But Mr Smith—Mr Nkomo remain dry of subscribing to free elections because they know

how little support they enjoy among the black Rhodesians. Indeed, between their respective excursions to Peking and Moscow—they are on record as saying that power in Rhodesia will only come through the 'barrel of the gun'; power that will rest in a Marxist or socialist Zimbabwe.

It would follow, therefore, that the Patriotic Front has no automatic moral right to be involved in a Rhodesian settlement because, politically, it shows every intention of setting up a neo-democratic Zimbabwe and, militarily, because after five years of fighting it remains a divided and ineffective fighting force.

Yours truly,
D. G. GALVIN,
Meadow Bank,
The Common,
Worsley,
New Guildford,
Surrey.

Changing police procedure

From Mr P. St John Howe
Sir, The Fisher Report on the Confront case points to difficulties arising out of existing police procedure and makes certain helpful recommendations.

Too other practices extensively used should be put pressure on accused people to make statements. What happens is:
1. Arrests are made on Friday after the courts have closed and the accused is told that if he is not in custody until Monday he will be kept in custody until then, unless, of course, he makes a statement. He is reminded of the meal awaiting him at home, his wife and children, etc. The power of an inspector, senior ranking officer to release the accused on bail, is of course not mentioned, or used.

2. When the accused is brought to court he is opposed 'while further enquiries are made' or for some other reason; but at the same time it is made perfectly plain to the accused that, if a statement admitting the offence is made, he will be released. The statement will be withdrawn at the next court appearance. It may well be imagined

what an incentive to make a statement it is when the accused learns that, if he is not granted bail, he will be kept in custody for a period of five to six weeks. (The application to a judge in chambers, which takes time and money, may be no more successful if the police continue their opposition.)

It may appear odd to more robust (and better educated) people that an innocent person will make an admission of guilt in these circumstances. The magistrates' courts deal with the overwhelming majority of criminal cases and it seems likely that what is known to every practitioner in the magistrates' courts is not known to the extent of the problem is not known to the higher judiciary. These practices have been developed to trap a few social nuisances but potentially they endanger the liberty of many honest citizens. They should therefore be stopped now.

Yours faithfully,
P. ST. JOHN HOWE,
Central Chambers,
34 St Thomas Street,
Weymouth,
Dorset.
December 14.

A school administrator

From Mr C. H. F. Broad
Sir, I was interested to note on page 1 of the issue of December 12 the statement that the Department of Education and Science, as shown in a recent report by the inspectorate, are turning belatedly towards the larger school. As one who is just retiring from 25 years in such an establishment, I would like to make a suggestion, which to my knowledge has not been put forward seriously before.

Two of the major problems in the very large school are the complete divorce of the headmaster or principal from the individual child, through his need to be both educational chief and managing director of a considerable establishment and the fact that scholarship and administrative staff march all too rarely together.

What I believe could resolve this dilemma is the creation of a post of administrator, very much on the French lines; this man would act as senior vice-principal and take away from the principal or head-

master the need to be over-concerned with matters not directly educational. I believe such an office could be tied into the structure of educational administration whereby at a certain stage in the life of an administrative officer in a local authority education department, he could be appointed for a five-year term as administrator to a big school: such an appointment I imagine, would at a later stage serve as a strong qualification for promotion to the role of director or assistant director of education. From such a structure I am sure the academic and pastoral roles of a head of a school would benefit on the one hand and, on the other, there would be a much healthier and closer liaison between schools and those at county headquarters who administer them.

Yours faithfully,
C. H. F. BROAD,
Principal, Burleigh Community College,
Thorpe Hill,
Loughborough,
Leicestershire.
December 12.

The fate of the Lib-Lab pact

From Mr Richard Lamb
Sir, How right your leader today (December 15) is in saying that the Liberals ought not to denounce the pact on the issue of the method of elections to the European Parliament!

Important as it is to dedicated Liberals it is a peripheral issue as far as the majority of the voters are concerned and Mr Callaghan had given no specific assurance on this point when the pact was made.

David Steel's great mistake was to agree to a pact which did not contain strong specific assurances from the Prime Minister about inflation. For the Liberals to get any electoral kudos out of the arrangement they needed to spotlight that their influence on the Government had kept prices down.

David Steel should now demand as a condition for continuing the pact that the Government stick to their guns over the 10 per cent increase in earnings guide lines, and that statutory powers are taken urgently to deal with firms that the private sector who make bogus productivity deals or otherwise breach the pay limit. Experts now estimate on evidence already available that wage inflation will run at 17 per cent next year because of the Government's weakness over Ford and other flagrant breaches of the Pay Code, and from so many productivity deals not being self-financing.

The Liberals are still in a strong position because the last thing the Government want is a General Election before the April Budget, and David Steel should demand not only a tougher policy over wages, but also an assurance that our North Sea oil revenue next year will be used for income tax cuts to boost the economy and not frittered away on the projects asked for by the Tribune Group and the left wing members of the Cabinet. If David Steel now obtained an agreement in writing from the Prime Minister which proved incontrovertibly that Liberal influence had put a stop to the current wage explosion and that the Liberal policy to use North Sea oil revenue for income tax cuts was being implemented, he would not only have acted in the national interest but also greatly improved Liberal chances in the coming General Election.

Yours truly,
RICHARD LAMB,
Knighton Manor,
Broadchalke,
Salisbury,
Wiltshire.
December 15.

King Canute

From Mrs Dorothy M. Davenport
Sir, I don't feel that James Clark (December 14) will have much success in trying to reinstate King Canute's good name. The popular misconceptions of history, like the events depicted on Keats's Grecian urns, are frozen static for ever. Some years back I protested to your crossword compiler that Frankenstein was a Baron, not a monster, to be told that he was now a monster by accepted usage. I have often read complaints by satirists that however obvious their sarcasm someone will take them seriously and Canute would seem to be an early example of this.

However, it seems highly unlikely that this incident with the waves ever did take place and that more probably it is a later invention of Henry of Huntingdon, born about 1085. For an examination of this story and other immortal tales such as Alfred and the cakes, Blondel and Richard Coeur-de-Lion, Drake and his game of bowls, the George Washington and the cherry tree, and Wellington riding to see Blücher on the eve of Waterloo, may I recommend the delightful pamphlet (no 30) by Robert Blythe, late headmaster of Eton, called "The Undergrowth of History", published by the Historical Association in 1955 and reprinted in 1969. Yours sincerely,
DOROTHY M. DAVENPORT,
68 First Avenue,
Gillingham,
Kent.

Packer case costs

From Mr D. W. Edwards
Sir, Now that the dust is settling around the Packer judgment may I invite some of your learned readers to explain to interested but uninformed bystanders like me how the legal costs of £250,000 are calculated. This seems a good opportunity to remove the mystification which usually surrounds such news items. Yours faithfully,
D. W. EDWARDS,
21 Princes Way,
Brentwood,
Essex.

The courteous gull

From Mrs Christopher Hull
Sir, I suspect that the lack of a rear gun turret is the cause of Mr Dawson's gull relinquishing its flag pole (December 7). I have noticed that the incoming gull with well poised, peak invariable approaches from the rear.

Yours sincerely,
CECILIA HULL,
44 High Street,
Wimbledon, SW19.

From Mr Michael A. E. Franklin
Sir, I was staying with friends in Jamaica who had about a dozen Peacocks in their garden. Every evening at sunset, I watched these heavy birds fly to their selected perches on the branches of an enormous tree.

First one would fly up to the lowest branch then after a pause for a moment fly up to the next. Only when the lowest branch was vacated would a second bird fly up to it and so on by rotation up the tree. Never were two peacocks on the same branch at the same time (or it might have broken). At the end of this manoeuvre the whole flock was on the tree for the night, the first bird having reached the very top.

Your obedient servant,
MICHAEL FRANKLIN,
10 Blomfield Road,
Little Venice, W9.

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Move to vote in son of late Barton's director fails

From Our Own Correspondent

A move to get the son of a late director of a family business on to the board failed at the annual meeting of Barton's Transport in Nottingham yesterday.

Mr Alfred Barton Jr, son of the late Mr Alfred Barton, was proposed and seconded to fill the post left vacant by the death of his father on May 22 last. But the meeting was told that the directors felt it inadvisable to bring in a new addition to the board at the present time. They wanted to keep the board relatively small. There were no other reasons for their decision, they said.

However, Mr Barton's mother said: "I do not consider my son would be an addition to the board. He would be taking his father's place and I do not see why he cannot do so." A resolution to elect him to the board was defeated by 24 votes to 14.

This year is the company's golden jubilee. The firm was started in 1927 by the four original Barton brothers and has been operating as a passenger transport business ever since. It has an annual turnover of £4m. Mr T. H. Barton and J. E. Barton, who were both directors, were both re-elected.

Culter Gd Bridge slips 65 pc

The slide in profits continues at Culter Gd Bridge. Holdings over the year to March 31 of this paper making and converting group dropped from £1.1m to £603,000, although sales picked up. Over the first half of the current year profits slipped from £201,000 to £70,000 on turnover up from £8.5m to £9.7m and the board thinks that the second half is unlikely to match the £400,000 brought in over the same period last year.

Meanwhile, the capital expenditure programme is going according to plan and in the long term this will increase operating efficiency and add to the group's versatility.

Interim setback at Cullens Stores

The board of Cullens Stores is very disappointed by the half-year results, which show pre-tax profits of £116,000 against £174,000. This reflects the difficulties facing the company since the start of the year, and they do not see them getting any easier until next year.

Consideration of an interim dividend will be given when they have had the benefit of the Christmas trade. In the meantime every effort will be made to stop the erosion of profits by expenses where they have some control over them. A property revaluation is planned.

Willows Francis-Guinness Peat

In the formal offer document, from Guinness Peat Group for Willows Francis, the board of Francis states that pre-tax profits for the three months to September 30 are well ahead of the corresponding period in 1976, but some part of this is due to the satisfactory completion of an important overseas contract. Sales for the four months to October 31 are also ahead.

In order to save expenses, the board has agreed with Guinness Peat to seek shareholders' approval for the issue of two new Francis ordinary shares for every one now held.

Bank Base Rates

Bank	Base Rate
ABN Bank	7 1/2%
Barclays Bank	7 1/2%
Consolidated Credit	7 1/2%
First London Sec	7 1/2%
C. Moore & Co	7 1/2%
Lloyds Bank	7 1/2%
London Mercantile	7 1/2%
Midland Bank	7 1/2%
Nat Westminster	7 1/2%
Rosminster Acc's	7 1/2%
Shenley Trust	7 1/2%
TSB	7 1/2%
Williams and Glyn's	7 1/2%

* 7 day deposits on sums of £10,000 and above, 1 1/2% over 12 months, 1 1/2% over 18 months, 1 1/2% over 24 months.

M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited
The Over-the-Counter Market

1976-77	1977-78	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P.E.
44	27	Airsprung Ord	41	-	4.2	10.0
150	100	Airsprung 18 1/2 CULS	143	-	18.0	12.5
39	25	Armstrong & Rhodes	36	-	3.2	9.2
145	105	Bardon Hill	142 1/2	-	12.0	8.4
102	48	Deborah Ord	99	-	5.1	5.2
216	140	Deborah 17 1/2 CULS	216	-	17.5	8.0
147	120	Frederick Ord	144	-	11.5	8.0
59	36	James Burrough	50	-	5.0	10.0
114	35	James Burrough	103	-	6.0	5.6
140	188	Robert Jenkins	310 1/2	-	27.0	8.6
24	8	Twinkl Ord	14	-	1.0	1.1
77	57	Twinkl 12 1/2 ULS	70	-	12.0	17.1
69	51	Uniclock Holdings	69 1/2	-	10.0	10.1
87	65	Walter Alexander	86	-	6.4	7.4

Commodities

RUBBER was weak in early trading, but recovered to close at a profit. The market was supported by a report that the Malaysian Rubber Board had decided to increase its export quota for 1978. The price of natural rubber rose from 1.15 to 1.18 pence per lb. Synthetic rubber prices were also higher, with SBR 1500 rising from 1.10 to 1.12 pence per lb.

COFFEE prices were steady. Arabica coffee futures for March 1978 were quoted at 1.15 pence per lb. Robusta coffee futures for the same month were at 1.05 pence per lb.

WHEAT prices were higher, with March 1978 futures for the UK rising from 1.10 to 1.12 pence per bushel. US wheat prices were also higher, with March 1978 futures for the US rising from 1.10 to 1.12 pence per bushel.

GRAIN prices were higher, with March 1978 futures for the UK rising from 1.10 to 1.12 pence per bushel. US grain prices were also higher, with March 1978 futures for the US rising from 1.10 to 1.12 pence per bushel.

Forward Levels

The range of 5 per cent to 42 per cent. Working in the market's favour were very full balances brought over from Thursday by the banks.

Money Market

Rates
Bank of England Minimum Lending Rate 7 1/2% (Last changed 1977-10-17)
Clearing Bank Rate 10 1/2%
Weekend Rate 10 1/2%

Gold

Gold prices were higher, with March 1978 futures for the UK rising from 1.10 to 1.12 pence per ounce. US gold prices were also higher, with March 1978 futures for the US rising from 1.10 to 1.12 pence per ounce.

Discount market

The Bank of England yesterday bought an exceptionally large quantity of Treasury bills directly from the houses to relieve a shortage of credit in the overnight market. For most of the session, rates were in the 6 1/2 per cent area in a market that was much quieter since the Bank's mid-week signal that called for stability in short-term money rates across the term of the year.

"Late in the day, after the authorities had given help that looked to have been rather overdue, rates came down to levels that allowed banks to be ruled out in

Wall Street

New York, Dec 16.—The stock market closed slightly lower in moderate trading against a background of mixed economic news. The Dow Jones industrial average finished the day at 1,132.40, down 2.59, its low point of the session. Declining issues held a small lead over advancing ones at 1,132.40. Volume was 207,271,000 shares, compared with 216,111 million yesterday. Trading got off to a fairly encouraging start as the Commerce Department reported a modest 0.4 per cent rise in business inventories for October.

Analysts said the key section of that report dealt with the fact that retail inventories rose only 0.3 per cent, there had been no change in the number of retail inventories that got out of hand and led to future production cutbacks. —AP—Dow Jones.

Gold again mixed

New York, Dec 16.—GOLD futures prices were mixed. The price of gold rose from 1.10 to 1.12 pence per ounce. US gold prices were also higher, with March 1978 futures for the US rising from 1.10 to 1.12 pence per ounce.

Analysts said the key section of that report dealt with the fact that retail inventories rose only 0.3 per cent, there had been no change in the number of retail inventories that got out of hand and led to future production cutbacks. —AP—Dow Jones.

Eurobond prices (midday indicators)

US STRAIGHTS (\$)	Bid	Offer
Australia 1982	101 1/2	101 3/4
Belgium 1982	101 1/2	101 3/4
Canada 1982	101 1/2	101 3/4
France 1982	101 1/2	101 3/4
Germany 1982	101 1/2	101 3/4
Italy 1982	101 1/2	101 3/4
Japan 1982	101 1/2	101 3/4
Netherlands 1982	101 1/2	101 3/4
Spain 1982	101 1/2	101 3/4
Sweden 1982	101 1/2	101 3/4
Switzerland 1982	101 1/2	101 3/4
UK 1982	101 1/2	101 3/4
US 1982	101 1/2	101 3/4

Recent Issues

Company	Issue	Price	Yield
ABN Bank	7 1/2%	7 1/2%	7 1/2%
Barclays Bank	7 1/2%	7 1/2%	7 1/2%
Consolidated Credit	7 1/2%	7 1/2%	7 1/2%
First London Sec	7 1/2%	7 1/2%	7 1/2%
C. Moore & Co	7 1/2%	7 1/2%	7 1/2%
Lloyds Bank	7 1/2%	7 1/2%	7 1/2%
London Mercantile	7 1/2%	7 1/2%	7 1/2%
Midland Bank	7 1/2%	7 1/2%	7 1/2%
Nat Westminster	7 1/2%	7 1/2%	7 1/2%
Rosminster Acc's	7 1/2%	7 1/2%	7 1/2%
Shenley Trust	7 1/2%	7 1/2%	7 1/2%
TSB	7 1/2%	7 1/2%	7 1/2%
Williams and Glyn's	7 1/2%	7 1/2%	7 1/2%

Authorized Units, Insurance & Offshore Funds

1976/77	1977/78	1978/79	1979/80	1980/81	1981/82	1982/83	1983/84	1984/85	1985/86	1986/87	1987/88	1988/89	1989/90	1990/91	1991/92	1992/93	1993/94	1994/95	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	2032/33	2033/34	2034/35	2035/36	2036/37	2037/38	2038/39	2039/40	2040/41	2041/42	2042/43	2043/44	2044/45	2045/46	2046/47	2047/48	2048/49	2049/50	2050/51	2051/52	2052/53	2053/54	2054/55	2055/56	2056/57	2057/58	2058/59	2059/60	2060/61	2061/62	2062/63	2063/64	2064/65	2065/66	2066/67	2067/68	2068/69	2069/70	2070/71	2071/72	2072/73	2073/74	2074/75	2075/76	2076/77	2077/78	2078/79	2079/80	2080/81	2081/82	2082/83	2083/84	2084/85	2085/86	2086/87	2087/88	2088/89	2089/90	2090/91	2091/92	2092/93	2093/94	2094/95	2095/96	2096/97	2097/98	2098/99	2099/00	2100/01	2101/02	2102/03	2103/04	2104/05	2105/06	2106/07	2107/08	2108/09	2109/10	2110/11	2111/12	2112/13	2113/14	2114/15	2115/16	2116/17	2117/18	2118/19	2119/20	2120/21	2121/22	2122/23	2123/24	2124/25	2125/26	2126/27	2127/28	2128/29	2129/30	2130/31	2131/32	2132/33	2133/34	2134/35	2135/36	2136/37	2137/38	2138/39	2139/40	2140/41	2141/42	2142/43	2143/44	2144/45	2145/46	2146/47	2147/48	2148/49	2149/50	2150/51	2151/52	2152/53	2153/54	2154/55	2155/56	2156/57	2157/58	2158/59	2159/60	2160/61	2161/62	2162/63	2163/64	2164/65	2165/66	2166/67	2167/68	2168/69	2169/70	2170/71	2171/72	2172/73	2173/74	2174/75	2175/76	2176/77	2177/78	2178/79	2179/80	2180/81	2181/82	2182/83	2183/84	2184/85	2185/86	2186/87	2187/88	2188/89	2189/90	2190/91	2191/92	2192/93	2193/94	2194/95	2195/96	2196/97	2197/98	2198/99	2199/00	2200/01	2201/02	2202/03	2203/04	2204/05	2205/06	2206/07	2207/08	2208/09	2209/10	2210/11	2211/12	2212/13	2213/14	2214/15	2215/16	2216/17	2217/18	2218/19	2219/20	2220/21	2221/22	2222/23	2223/24	2224/25	2225/26	2226/27	2227/28	2228/29	2229/30	2230/31	2231/32	2232/33	2233/34	2234/35	2235/36	2236/37	2237/38	2238/39	2239/40	2240/41	2241/42	2242/43	2243/44	2244/45	2245/46	2246/47	2247/48	2248/49	2249/50	2250/51	2251/52	2252/53	2253/54	2254/55	2255/56	2256/57	2257/58	2258/59	2259/60	2260/61	2261/62	2262/63	2263/64	2264/65	2265/66	2266/67	2267/68	2268/69	2269/70	2270/71	2271/72	2272/73	2273/74	2274/75	2275/76	2276/77	2277/78	2278/79	2279/80	2280/81	2281/82	2282/83	2283/84	2284/85	2285/86	2286/87	2287/88	2288/89	2289/90	2290/91	2291/92	2292/93	2293/94	2294/95	2295/96	2296/97	2297/98	2298/99	2299/00	2300/01	2301/02	2302/03	2303/04	2304/05	2305/06	2306/07	2307/08	2308/09	2309/10	2310/11	2311/12	2312/13	2313/14	2314/15	2315/16	2316/17	2317/18	2318/19	2319/20	2320/21	2321/22	2322/23	2323/24	2324/25	2325/26	2326/27	2327/28	2328/29	2329/30	2330/31	2331/32	2332/33	2333/34	2334/35	2335/36	2336/37	2337/38	2338/39	2339/40	2340/41	2341/42	2342/43	2343/44	2344/45	2345/46	2346/47	2347/48	2348/49	2349/50	2350/51	2351/52	2352/53	2353/54	2354/55	2355/56	2356/57	2357/58	2358/59	2359/60	2360/61	2361/62	2362/63	2363/64	2364/65	2365/66	2366/67	2367/68	2368/69	2369/70	2370/71	2371/72	2372/73	2373/74	2374/75	2375/76	2376/77	2377/78	2378/79	2379/80	2380/81	2381/82	2382/83	2383/84	2384/85	2385/86	2386/87	2387/88	2388/89	2389/90	2390/91	2391/92	2392/93	2393/94	2394/95	2395/96	2396/97	2397/98	2398/99	2399/00	2400/01	2401/02	2402/03	2403/04	2404/05	2405/06	2406/07	2407/08	2408/09	2409/10	2410/11	2411/12	2412/13	2413/14	2414/15	2415/16	2416/17	2417/18	2418/19	2419/20	2420/21	2421/22	2422/23	2423/24	2424/25	2425/26	2426/27	2427/28	2428/29	2429/30	2430/31	2431/32	2432/33	2433/34	2434/35	2435/36	2436/37	2437/38	2438/39	2439/40	2440/41	2441/42	2442/43	2443/44	2444/45	2445/46	2446/47	2447/48	2448/49	2449/50	2450/51	2451/52	2452/53	2453/54	2454/55	2455/56	2456/57	2457/58	2458/59	2459/60	2460/61	2461/62	2462/63	2463/64	2464/65	2465/66	2466/67	2467/68	2468/69	2469/70	2470/71	2471/72	2472/73	2473/74	2474/75	2475/76	2476/77	2477/78	2478/79	2479/80	2480/81	2481/82	2482/83	2483/84	2484/85	2485/86	2486/87	2487/88	2488/89	2489/90	2490/91	2491/92	2492/93	2493/94	2494/95	2495/96	2496/97	2497/98	2498/99	2499/00	2500/01	2501/02	2502/03	2503/04	2504/05	2505/06	2506/07	2507/08	2508/09	2509/10	2510/11	2511/12	2512/13	2513/14	2514/15	2515/16	2516/17	2517/18	2518/19	2519/20	2520/21	2521/22	2522/23	2523/24	2524/25	2525/26	2526/27	2527/28	2528/29	2529/30	2530/31	2531/32	2532/33	2533/34	2534/35	2535/36	2536/37	2537/38	2538/39	2539/40	2540/41	2541/42	2542/43	2543/44	2544/45	2545/46	2546/47	2547/48	2548/49	2549/50	2550/51	2551/52	2552/53	2553/54	2554/55	2555/56	2556/57	2557/58	2558/59	2559/60	2560/61	2561/62	2562/63	2563/64	2564/65	2565/66	2566/67	2567/68	2568/69	2569/70	2570/71	2571/72	2572/73	2573/74	2574/75	2575/76	2576/77	2577/78	2578/79	2579/80	2580/81	2581/82	2582/83	2583/84	2584/85	2585/86	2586/87	2587/88	2588/89	2589/90	2590/91	2591/92	2592/93	2593/94	2594/95	2595/96	2596/97	2597/98	2598/99	2599/00	2600/01	2601/02	2602/03	2603/04	2604/05	2605/06	2606/07	2607/08	2608/09	2609/10	2610/11	2611/12	2612/13	2613/14	2614/15	2615/16	2616/17	2617/18	2618/19	2619/20	2620/21	2621/22	2622/23	2623/24	2624/25	2625/26	2626/27	2627/28	2628/29	2629/30	2630/31	2631/32	2632/33	2633/34	2634/35	2635/36	2636/37	2637/38	2638/39	2639/40	2640/41	2641/42	2642/43	2643/44	2644/45	2645/46	2646/47	2647/48	2648/49	2649/50	2650/51	2651/52	2652/53	2653/54	2654/55	2655/56	2656/57	2657/58	2658/59	2659/60	2660/61	2661/62	2662/63	2663/64	2664/65	2665/66	2666/67	2667/68	2668/69	2669/70	2670/71	2671/72	2672/73	2673/74	2674/75	2675/76	2676/77	2677/78	2678/79	2679/80	2680/81	2681/82	2682/83	2683/84	2684/85	2685/86	2686/87	2687/88	2688/89	2689/90	2690/91	2691/92	2692/93	2693/94	2694/95	2695/96	2696/97	2697/98	2698/99	2699/00	2700/01	2701/02	2702/03	2703/04	2704/05	2705/06	2706/07	2707/08	2708/09	2709/10	2710/11	2711/12	2712/13	2713/14	2714/15	2715/16	2716/17	2717/18	2718/19	2719/20	2720/21	2721/22	2722/23	2723/24	2724/25	2725/26	2726/27	2727/28	2728/29	2729/30	2730/31	2731/32	2732/33	2733/34	2734/35	2735/36	2736/37	2737/38	2738/39	2739/40	2740/41	2741/42	2742/43	2743/44	2744/45	2745/46	2746/47	2747/48	2748/49	2749/50	2750/51	2751/52	2752/53	2753/54	2754/55	2755/56	2756/57	2757/58	2758/59	2759/60	2760/61	2761/62	2762/63	2763/64	2764/65	2765/66	2766/67	2767/68	2768/69	2769/70	2770/71	2771/72	2772/73	2773/74	2774/75	2775/76	2776/77	2777/78	2778/79	2779/80	2780/81	2781/82	2782/83	2783/84	2784/85	2785/86	2786/87	2787/88	2788/89	2789/90	2790/91	2791/92	2792/93	2793/94	2794/95	2795/96	2796/97	2797/98	2798/99	2799/00	2800/01	2801/02	2802/03	2803/04	2804/05	2805/06	2806/07	2807/08	2808/09	2809/10	2810/11	2811/12	2812/13	2813/14	2814/15	2815/16	2816/17	2817/18	2818/19	2819/20	2820/21	2821/22	2822/23	2823/24	2824/25	2825/26	2826/27	2827/28	2828/29	2829/30	2830/31	2831/32	2832/33	2833/34	2834/35	2835/36	2836/37	2837/38	2838/39	2839/40	2840/41	2841/42	2842/43	2843/44	2844/45	2845/46	2846/47	2847/48	2848/49	2849/50	2850/51	2851/52	2852/53	2853/54	2854/55	2855/56	2856/57	2857/58	2858/59	2859/60	2860/61	2861/62	2862/63	2863/64	2864/65	2865/66	2866/67	2867/68	2868/69	2869/70	2870/71	2871/72	2872/73	2873/74	2874/75	2875/76	2876/77	2877/78	2878/79	2879/80	2880/81	2881/82	2882/83	2883/84	2884/85	2885/86	2886/87	2887/88	2888/89	2889/90	2890/91	2891/92	2892/93	2893/94	2894/95	2895/96	2896/97	2897/98	2898/99	2899/00	2900/01	2901/02	2902/03	2903/04	2904/05	2905/06	2906/07	2907/08	2908/09	2909/10	2910/11	2911/12	2912/13	2913/14	2914/15	2915/16	2916/17	2917/18	2918/19	2919/20	2920/21	2921/22	2922/23	2923/24	2924/25	2925/26	2926/27	2927/28	2928/29	2929/30	2930/31	2931/32	2932/33	2933/34	2934/35	2935/36	2936/37	2937/38	2938/39	2939/40	2940/41	2941/42	2942/43	2943/44	2944/45	2945/46	2946/47	2947/48	2948/49	2949/50	2950/51	2951/52	2952/53	2953/54	2954/55	2955/56	2956/57	2957/58	2958/59	2959/60	2960/61	2961/62	2962/63	2963/64	2964/65	2965/66	2966/67	2967/68	2968/69	2969/70	2970/71	2971/72	2972/73	2973/74	2974/75	2975/76	2976/77	2977/78	2978/79	2979/80	2980/81	2981/82	2982/83	2983/84	2984/85	2985/86	2986/87	2987/88	2988/89	2989/90	2990/91	2991/92	2992/93	2993/94	2994/95	2995/96	2996/97	2997/98	2998/99	2999/00	3000/01	3001/02	3002/03	3003/04	3004/05	3005/06	3006/07	3007/0
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\$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous day

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Weekend

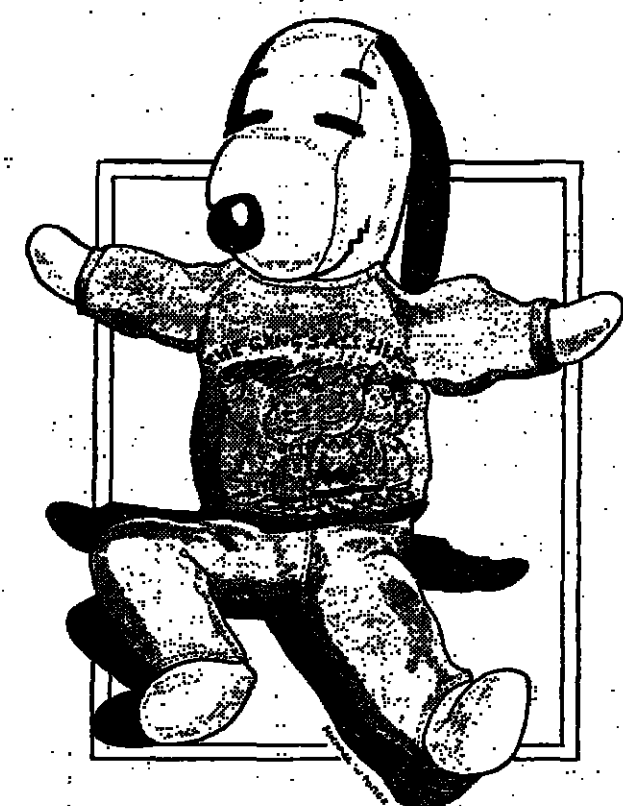
SHOP AROUND

Sheila Black

Heal's is a veritable fairy-land this Christmas, packed with goodies and exceptionally full of toys. Not in the photograph but worth mentioning are pots of herbs containing Witches Brew. The brews are many and so useful, being add-ons to Melancholy, Drunkenness, Gynaecology, and Apoplexy. Since all the recipes are herbal brews from old witches' recipes collected in West Sussex, there is obviously one for love, a real love potion, which is the one most people want although they buy the others for fun. These are £1.35 each. Crabtree and Evelyn soaps always make festive pres-

sents and the Avocado here is one of many stocked everywhere and in plenty at Heal's. The bread basket is also fun—there are flat ones, medium ones, small ones with sweet and a number of different arrangements of artificial rolls or croissants, delectable and appetizingly glazed. They would fool most of the people most of the time and make table or sideboard ornaments with a pretty look to them although the prices are rather high at from around £7 to £8.

In the background is a small sack of rum truffles from Merryval sweets, so popular with *Times* readers last year. Merryval shops are full of sweets and delicious sweets too. The rum truffles are £1.35 and can be posted for 35p; an apothecary jar of coloured sweets is £2.50 (75p). Sesame and honey makes a delight at 35p plus 35p and really old-world truffles for 65p (35p). Some superb pralines and ananas au rhum are, respectively, £2.95 (40p) and £2.85 (45p). If you can get near the shops, do, and be tempted. They are in London at 59 Fleet Street, at Sloane Square and Leicester Square and at 10 Victoria Arcade, at the station end of Victoria Street, just near the Circle and District Lines entrance from the street. The last address, in London SW1, is the one for mail orders.



There is no doubt that Paddington Bear is this year's favourite, as our own tribe of children among *The Times* readers have testified, but Snoopy is still a close second. So look out for Mini-Mascot Snoopy dolls at 90p each; little velvet Woodstocks at £1.95; and plush and rag snoopy dolls from around £2 to £40. The Peanut's tumbling troupe, called Stackables, has five Peanut characters who can be arranged to stand or perform like acrobats—or just £1.85. Snoopy memory boards, softball darts, games as described under *Et cetera's* wares, and even beandolls are all in the Snoopy image. Stocked very, very widely but, the distributor's name is The Gladland Ltd, 57 Crawford Street, London, W1. (01-724 3406).

A textile framed photograph has softness and intimacy. This one is from Maples, Euston Road for £4.95 plus 50p and it matches curtain fabric at £6.75 the metre.

Make yourself a minicone, designed and produced by John Ryan, 12 Airlie Gardens, London, W8. You buy a sheet of coloured shapes which are cut out then rolled into cones to make a row of little characters. You can have Henry VIII and his six wives; Robin Hood with five merry men; Hansel and Gretel with their sweet cottage, cat, witch and woodcutter; or Captain Pugwash and four more pirates. The card is thin enough for

really young children to cut easily, the colours are bright, the heights are from two to four inches and they all look rather like those little wooden Russian dolls. You can find them at all Design Centre shops, Harrods, Heal's, General Trading, Children's Book Centre in Kensington High Street, and so forth in London. There are some out of town stockists or you might contact the maker direct (01-727 8106). Each minicone card of characters is about 75p.

A little company has a good games idea. They send you anagrams on certain themes. For example, they send you a list of Christmas words together with cards printed boldly with anagrams of the words on the list. Place the cards about the room and give each guest a pencil and paper. Then mark the best scores within a certain time limit. Although it is a little late now to get organized for Christmas with the names of your family and guests, the stock is a good one covering 20 subjects like drinks, birds, cars, composers, Shakespearean characters, pop singers, TV programmes and many others. You could be sophisticated and order both Countries of the World and Capital Cities, then use them both together in a kind of double game. A nice idea anyway, you buy each set for £1.25 including postage. Write to Sphinx, 11 Graysheep Road, Headley Down, Bordon, Hampshire, and for the complete list, telephone Headley Down 2792. These games are as their name 'will shake you'. Had you thought of anagramming all your names or making place names that mixed-up way?



For years and years, *Et cetera* has been a source of fun to many and I have thoroughly enjoyed recommending their tricks as well as their host-and-house accessories. In the photograph, you see a small selection from a very large range that also includes some super leatherware such as handbags, shoes and belts made by a small factory of Italians here in England. The Kona crystal ice bucket is a piece of great beauty, with the clear crystal essentially unflawed—some cut crystal can be flawed as the cuts can cover a few stars but never the clear crystal. It costs £22.95 but is heavy, quality crystal, always admired. An original bottle-shaped decanter matches it, just as crystal clear at £20.95 (£2.50 extra by post). The adorable little alarm clock tells the time worldwide but I do not recommend it for desks unless the owner remembers to lock it away every single time he leaves the office. I know what happens in offices, anywhere and everywhere—the price is £16.95 (£1 p.p.). In the background is one of a set of three subcases plus one bag, an exceptionally reasonable set at £45 (plus £2). Of tough cotton, the colour is a kind of bluish-white, with a slight tweed effect and the pattern is very reminiscent of some rather cooler ones. Navy blue blind-stitch all around the sides make strong sides and a strong setting for the zip fasteners. Red stripes help you to find it off the luggage claim—one of the *Et cetera* executives has been all round the world with his case twice and it is only just looking a bit worn. The cases are medium, large and larger, the tote bag capacious.

A little plastic box with smaller boxes that fit or slide in and out like drawers is called an organizer (£1.25 plus 45p). I think they are useful for such small things as paper clips but I recommend them mostly for babies, who would love playing with these little fit-together plastic pieces. A marble cheese board and knife arrive packed flat but the marble, flat dish has a graceful stem to assemble when you open the pack and makes an easy-pass-around cheese "board" at £12.60 plus £2.50.

There is a fascinating game called Rummikub, played with 106 bricks, corresponding to two packs of cards with a couple of jokers. The bricks, like scrabble bricks, are played from strands in front of each player. Complicated to begin with, it becomes fascinating and costs £14.95 (£1). Parties or buffets will be bettered for this. Chip and Dip Crystal bowl, a heavy crystal bowl with a crystal wall in the middle of it for dips—dips are a good way of serving non-fattening things like chipper carrots or celery to use with a cottage cheese dip—it costs £19.95 (£2.50). For simple fun, try a felt target board at £1.50 which throws pile-covered balls which stick to the felt and so can be played in any room without putting the furniture at risk—£1.50 (30p). For outdoors and parties, consider Frigates, a portable refrigerator or "cooker" to heat food. An insulated box into which you pack cans of beer or packs and cans of food, then plug into the nearest power source, and you have a portable refrigerator or "cooker" to heat food. An insulated box into which you pack cans of beer or packs and cans of food, then plug into the nearest power source, and you have a portable refrigerator or "cooker" to heat food.

You can even follow the practice of some executives and have your own personal computer. Feed in all that you have to do or remember, then tell the Mind Reader which will tell you the appropriate day to go to the important meeting. Call up the Calendar to read off weeks or months at a time. It costs £39.5, £3 postage. I can remember the *Et cetera* of the '60s, when idiot jokes would sell for anything up to £25 or £50 because people had



the money to spare. Now a joke is something like the Pet rock, a piece of rock in a box for those who wanted to avoid cleaning the cage in which it lived, the feeding and the walks in the parks. Now how would you like to swear flies with a Heath Robinson contraption at £7.95? Squeeze a trigger and a lever with a fly-watter on it executes the fly which is calibrated so that the hand that pressed the trigger can score. If the fly is dead centre on the

swatter (or was romances) the score is 100, the score lessening as the fly dies nearer the outside. They still have those large blocks of wood with apparently piercing nails, which can be used to be ballpoint pens. The plastic paper clip I have mentioned before and, although it is now £4.95, it is still a popular gift. A plastic lady has a man stop her and the papers are clipped together when the slides dictate (£500). Solar lighters for cigarettes, calculator-watches, and a host of other toys, costly or less so, are mixed up in *Et cetera* with silver and silver plate, porcelain and earthenware, massive fruit candles and literally hundreds of stocking fillers. The shops are at 165 Station Road, Edgware; 37 St John's Wood High Street; 26 Connaught Street; and 47 Golders Green Road, London NW11, as well as Brent Cross. The Golders Green Shop is the mail order office and the telephone number is 01-455 3441.

The maker has now produced a cover in pink or white for those who use them in bed, an unexciting, unsophisticated quilted nylon cover which is nevertheless highly practical, no-slip, washable and dried in no time. It costs £3.65 including postage while Stikit itself is £9.80 (including the £1 postage). A large number of older or disabled people have asked for carrying handles on their Stikit and these can be done for 60p extra, which is only just cost price. The address is Lucy Hulbert Company, Wake's Way, Itchenor, Sussex.

Hundreds of readers either bought or gave Stikit (this page earlier this year) to motorists, typists, people with bad backs or just because Stikit, the padded back-board, made many of life's occupations more comfortable. Since then readers have told me that Stikit is an ideal bed board and that they have ordered extras. They are good for sitting up in bed and make all the difference to reading or working in bed. They are good to lie on, eliminating many backaches. They are in beige, tan or black and measure 18 by 10 inches by about 1 1/2 inches thick.

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Bedlam's nightshirts and nightcaps seem to be endlessly popular, whereas I must confess I thought they would prove to be a craze that died out. The red, blue or brown striped sets seem to be the favourite of quite a lot of people. In pure cotton, they cost £8.50 for the knee-length nightshirt or £9.50 with an ankle-length shirt plus 45p postage. Do not forget to give chest sizes when ordering and to ask about other patterns, including a pretty floral

nightshirt and mob cap. Personal shoppers can go to 44 Temple Street, Birmingham; 51 Gloucester Road, Bristol; 28 Bedford Place, Southampton; Bedding Centre in Lower Follet, Gloucestershire; or at any of the Aronica branches where you will also find a mass of duvets, covers and do-it-yourself duvets. Mail order is done from the head office address at 114 Kensington Church Street, London, W8, rather nearer the northern end. Bedlam is also first class for beds, especially unbeds, of which prices these days are really rather terrifying.

Mini books are nice little stocking fillers or extra gifts to be by the plates of guests. Masses of little brown books, just 5 1/2 by 4 inches, are at Habitat, health food and other shops, distributed by Hunkydory Designs. Called the Little Brown Bread/Egg/Rice books, besides the Little Brown Book of Greens, they are paperbacks with stiffish brown card covers, and they contain simple, healthy recipes all in brown ink script on white background, rather attractive and appealing to look at as well as to feel. Little gems at 15p.

The History of Little Faery is another adorable book. A facsimile is on sale at the Museum of London shop. The original was one of a series of little toy books with costumes dating from around 1850. Text and pictures are in a slipcase, the costumes delicately coloured to show Little Faery in different dresses and costumes. It costs 95p (plus 15p p.p. if you cannot make it to the museum). It really is charming. Incidentally, there will be a children's lecture on December 29 at 2.30 and on December 30 at the same time. It will be on children's books. From *Chapbook* to *Puffin* and there will afterwards be a chance to see many things familiar to Victorian children

such as costumes, toys and books. Entrance is free, with-out tickets. A Plain Cookery Book for the Working Classes is also miniature, about 5 1/2 by 4 1/2 inches. First published in 1864, it shows the other side of life from Mrs Beeton's. It gives recipes on how to prepare a good quantity of soup for the poor, how to brew your own beer, and simply tells you how to fry, roast or cook the basics. After all, the author is Charles Elme Francis, tell, once chief cook to Queen Victoria.

Reprinted from the edition of 1852, this little book has come a kind of full circle and is useful to the inflation-ridden, tax-deprived middle classes. I doubt if you can buy any set from any longer, then available at all chemists, and so you will not be able to make Antiques Tea to help you with tuppence and it keeps cold overnight in a vacuum flask. But I have been trying out the Ekco Hostess and I found it a luxury that could rapidly become an essential. The little round kettle and teapot nest behind a clock and the light works independently, I'm happy to say. The pot and kettle are of stainless steel, and the kettle is easily filled through a top hole before the sealing lid, which is a neat bar of plastic, goes on to make it a water-tight fit. A tube joins the two spouts to

I am about the only person I know who does not want or even like early-morning tea. When I waken, orange juice is my staple and it keeps cold overnight in a vacuum flask. But I have been trying out the Ekco Hostess and I found it a luxury that could rapidly become an essential. The little round kettle and teapot nest behind a clock and the light works independently, I'm happy to say. The pot and kettle are of stainless steel, and the kettle is easily filled through a top hole before the sealing lid, which is a neat bar of plastic, goes on to make it a water-tight fit. A tube joins the two spouts to

your telephone directory or ask directory inquiries since they are opening all the time. My second teasmaker is also at Argos, a really well-designed one from Pifco that looks like two short, cylindrical towers on either side of the upright column with the control buttons. Independent light and stainless steel again, very good-looking and discounted at Argos from £49.50 to £35.95. If you have no Argos catalogue, it is time you did but only if you have some money left as you will be tempted by a lot of the full coloured catalogues from all Argos branches. For the other stockists, contact Ekco Heating Appliances, Drury Lane, Hastings, East Sussex, or Pifco, Princess Street, Manchester.

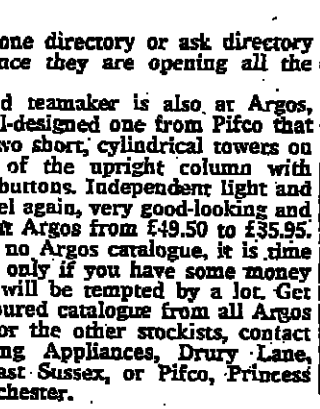
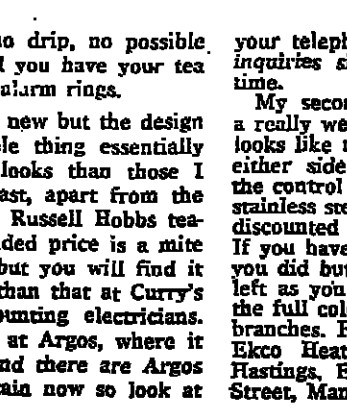
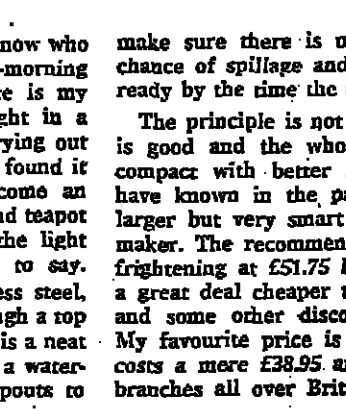
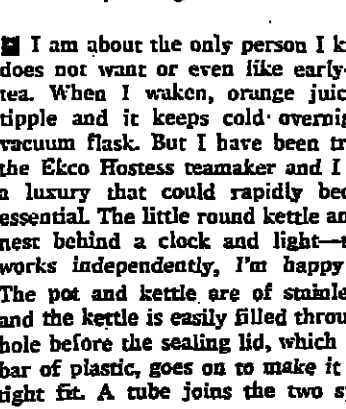
You will have to work fast but you can just order a bunch of daffodils to arrive on someone's doorstep for Christmas from the Cornish Bulb Company, 13a, Church Street, Falmouth. £3 for 20 blooms may not be so cheap but spring at Christmas cannot be cheap. The Cornish Bulb Company also sells cameras, ready-to-grow bulbs in pots, and some seed and fertilizer packs. List available. Give a year's subscription as an associate member of the Royal Shakespeare Company, which will cost £1.75 and will ensure that all leaflets about performances in the four theatres go to each associate, together with the privilege of getting two weeks priority booking at all theatres. Gift vouchers for tickets are £3, £4, £5,

and £6, or there is a Fellis Topoleki calendar showing scenes from productions for £1.50 from the Arts Council Shop or the Aldrich bookshop as well as from Stratford. Send a 7p stamp for the vouchers and add 30p to buy the calendar by post from RSC Theatre, Stratford on Avon, Warwick CV37 6BB. From Monday, December 19, to Friday, December 30, there is the "Song of Hiawatha" in the Upstream Theatre, Short Street, Waterloo, London SE1, presented by The Theatre of Marionettes, Barotpinin, St. Ann's, Lockerbie, Scotland (in case you want their other dates in other places). Let the young delight in 24-inch red Indians, a splendid arrival, and the dramatization of Longfellow's poem to Andrew Kirby's music.

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Above: Pifco. Right: Ekco Hostess.



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